Wednesday, January 25, 2012 ★★ Elections / Vol. 27 / No. 40 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

STOCKING UP ON GOOD LUCK A dragon dance troupe performs before traders inside the Philippine Stock Exchange trading floor in Makati City during a Chinese New Year celebration on Tuesday. NINO JESUS ORBETA

'Article 2' row stalls trial

It's more fun hearing P-Noy use new DOT slogan

By Christine O. Avendaño and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT, Pampanga—President Aquino had fun with it, too.

For the first time, Mr. Aquino mentioned in a speech the government's new tourism slogan, "It's more fun in the Philippines." He waved it in his lines with relish—not just once, but four times.

Speaking at the groundbreak- (TO PAGE A11)

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE President Aquino (right) talks to Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas (left) as Icsan in the middle business tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. wipes his brow during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Philippine Academy for Aviation Training Inc. at the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga on Tuesday.

JPE admits Senate put in a 'quandary'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Cathy C. Yamsuan

A "VAGUELY" written and formulated accusation that Chief Justice Renato Corona had amassed ill-gotten wealth put the Senate impeachment court yesterday in a "quandary" on whether to admit the prosecution evidence.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding officer, noted that Article 2 of the impeachment complaint had been "expanded" by the prosecution from its original allegation that Corona committed culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayed the public trust by supposedly failing to disclose his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs).

"We are at a quandary as to how to treat this article," Enrile told Rep. Mel Tupas Jr., the lead prosecutor.

The unresolved objection of the defense against evidence on alleged ill-gotten wealth embodied in Article 2 set off yet another exchange with the prosecution on the fifth day of the impeachment trial.

At press time, defense counsels yesterday filed a motion seeking to prevent Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares from testifying in the impeachment court and producing the income tax returns (ITRs) of Corona and his family.

"The prosecution of the ITRs and tax certificates of the Corona children should not be allowed for being without basis, irrelevant, and immaterial to ARTICLE A11

'Movement 100' all praises for JPE

• Suddenly, everybody is talking in Filipino / A16

Miriam: 'Rumble after terminal boredom'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor Santiago yesterday emerged from "terminal boredom" and energized the seemingly meandering impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Shortly after the hearing, Santiago fell on the floor on her way to a TV interview at the Senate media center. But she got up and appeared fine.

"I'm ready to rumble!" the former trial court judge declared in her Twitter account a few hours before joining the FRIDAY, A11

PRESENT PERFECT After missing 4 days of the impeachment trial, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago shows up and immediately makes her presence felt by lecturing lead House prosecutor Rep. Mel Tupas Jr. (right). ARMANDO

SC affirms ruling on coco levy: SMC's 24% goes to gov't

By Jerome Aning

THE SUPREME Court yesterday affirmed a 2004 ruling of the Sandiganbayan antigraft court that awarded a 24-percent block of shares in San Miguel Corp. registered in the name of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) and its holding companies, to the government, which holds it in trust for the country's coconut farmers.

The public information office of the Supreme Court has yet to release a hard copy of the decision, penned by Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., as of press time.

However, reliable sources in the high tribunal said the voting were 11 to nil, with Justices Antonio Carpio, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Diosdado Peralta inhibiting and Justice Arturo Brion on official leave.

Carpio was one of the petitioners in the case to declare the coconut levy funds as public SC AFFIRMS A11

WHAT'S INSIDE

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UP study: Oral sex leads to cancer / A4

'GMA well, she can be moved to jail or not'

By Nancy C. Carvajal, Jerome Aning and Mike Morelos

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is well enough to leave the hospital, according to the head of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC).

"She can be moved to a jail or not. She is stable and has no active medical problem," VMMC director Dr. Nona Legaspi told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Keeping her in the hospital is "not our decision. Ms Arroyo did not come to us as a voluntary patient but because of a court order," Legaspi said.

She said she would recommend to the court that the former President could obtain any further treatment as an "outpatient."

She explained that the 64-year-old Arroyo was undergoing for her bone ailment could be done outside the hospital.

"Whatever should have been done for her for her ailment was already done at St. Luke's. She can be an outpatient now," she said.

The Commission on Elections GMA WELL A10

JDV: Abalos presence in China golf big surprise

By Leila B. Salaverria

FANCY meeting you here.

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia testified yesterday before the Sandiganbayan that he was surprised at the presence of then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos at a 2006 golf game in Shenzhen, China, in which then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and ZTE Corp. officials were taking part.

De Venecia also said that during the golf game, it was Abalos who was arranging which player would play against whom.

Abalos is being tried for graft for purportedly taking an interest in the scrapped National Broadband Network (NBN) JDV A6

P-Noy's man no poster boy for antipiracy drive

By Dona Pazlar
Associate Editor
Inquirer Readers

SOMEHOW in the Aquino Cabinet, it seems, is into collecting hot stuff.

More than three months after a high-power assault rifle police discovered in his SUV put him on the spot, Ronald Llamas, presidential adviser on political affairs, may need some more explaining to do.

This time, for apparently ignoring the government campaign against movie piracy.

This writer personally witnessed how Llamas bought a stack of pirated DVDs in one of the stalls at Circle C mall P-NOY'S MAN A15

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? Every cohort Pinoy does it—buy pirated CDs for cheap thrills. But there's something to be said (twice!) when Presidential Political Adviser Ronald Llamas does it in a popular mall in QC.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

PIRATE ATTACK EYED

15 fishermen slain off Basilan

GOV'T WATCH

Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
CONSUMER ADVOCATE

GOV'T WATCH CHAIR CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF THE DOE AUDIT TEAM

Gov't Watch Chairman & DOE Audit Team Representative for the Consumer Group Raul Concepcion is calling for the immediate convening of the DOE Audit Team considering the relentless Oil Price Hikes due to the unrest in the Middle East and Nigeria.

Mr. Concepcion pointed out that **DOE needs to clarify the terms of reference, duties and responsibilities of the Audit Team** that will be required of them before finally accepting the post assigned to them respectively by DOE.

This request for clarification is vital considering the **DOE Audit Team is composed of an independent group of respected people with unquestionable integrity.** They are:

1) Former Budget Secretary – BENJAMIN DIOKNO
2) Gov't Watch Chairman – RAUL CONCEPCION
3) Former NEDA Chief – SOLITA MONSOD
4) University of the Philippines – Dr. RENE AZURIN
5) Economist – Dr. VIC ABOLA
6) Accountant – TAMMY LIPANA
7) Transport Group 1-UTAK Rep. – Atty. VIGOR MENDOZA

Auditing the Books of the Oil Companies is of utmost importance because it will help CONGRESS to propose amendments in the Oil Deregulation Law or related legislative bills on oil regulation.

Gov't Watch shares the fact that the **Chapter III of the OIL DEREGULATION LAW entitled: ANTI-TRUST SAFEGUARDS, OTHER PROHIBITED ACTS AND REMEDIES; Section 11, states:**

ANTI-TRUST SAFEGUARDS – To ensure Fair Competition and prevent Cartels and monopolies in the industry.

The penalties under this prohibition states that any person, including but not limited to the COO, CEO, or CFO who is found guilty of any of the said prohibited acts shall suffer the penalty of three (3) to seven (7) years imprisonment, and a fine ranging from ONE MILLION PESOS (Php 1,000,000.00) to TWO MILLION PESOS (Php 2,000,000.00).

Base on this, **the OIL DEREGULATION LAW is defacto a REGULATED LAW.**

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Your comments or suggestions on this issue are important to us:

Do you Agree or Disagree that the DOE Audit Team must CONVENE IMMEDIATELY especially as Oil Price increases have been made four (4) times this month?

GOV'T WATCH would like to get your comments or suggestions on it. Please send your views and comments to GOV'T WATCH via SMS: GLOBE 0935-9687777 and SMART 0948-7488888 via email: inbox@GOVTWATCH.net www.govtwatch.net

GOV'T WATCH

By John Aligada
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Armed men believed to be pirates attacked a group of fishermen near Sibago Island in Basilan on Monday, killing at least 15 of them, military and police officials said.

"Heinous doo ala CPery were perpetrated with bullets," Mayor Rehman Alnasir of Isla Bubi town in Zamboanga del Sur told the Inquirer by phone, citing the accounts of survivors.

Navy reports earlier placed the number of fatalities at 20, but Marines said fishermen who responded to a radio distress call counted 15 bodies in three fishing boats, the Alquillen, Honeybee Mahale and Princess Lei Ann.

Chief Supt. Bienvenido Latag, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said: "we still do not know who were responsible." "Lone Guard authorities have said that piracy is a serious problem among fishermen in Western Mindanao.

The shooting took place some 10 nautical miles off Sibago, which is part of Muhammad Ajul town in Basilan, Latag said. Three fishermen were wounded, he said.

A report from The Associated Press quoted the police as saying that there were about 30 attackers. No arrests have been made yet as the news reached authorities late because of the remoteness of the area, senior police official Felicisimo Khu said.

Bodies recovered

Police received information that seven bodies were found in one boat, five bodies in another, and three bodies in the third boat. A similar report was made by the town's mayor, Talib Pawnki, according to Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command.

Cabangbang told the Inquirer that investigators could still not say who were behind the attack. He cited reports that the gunmen would be fishing rivals of the victims, but he also pointed to the problem of piracy in the area.

The bodies were brought to Pagadian City, he said.

Marine said only the bodies of William Lomoro, Kenneth Roger Castillo, Ronald Subion and Leonardo Tampocong were brought home.

Survivors

He said the two survivors, Arvin Quimba and Boyet Lopez, had earlier left their group's fishing area near Sibago. "They used two smaller bancas to locate and check the site of the fish corrallories, which were prior for lyon where the three fishing boats were moored," he said.

Based on their accounts, a total of 16 fishermen sailed from Isla Bubi town last week to fish near Muhammad Ajul. The group took off for Sibago Island on Thursday from Barangay Subtawan in Zamboanga City, Marine said.

The area a dispute call through their single side band radio at around 8 a.m. on Monday, the mayor said.

"This is very painful. Where were the authorities?" he told the Inquirer by phone.

In March 2008, 13 fishermen were killed by armed men near Pilapil town in Zamboanga del Sur.

Money to pirates

The Philippine Coast Guard had reported that fishermen would give money to pirates to be spared from attacks. A fisherman would pay P1,500 to march for a boat carrying an icebox and P500 for a small motorized banca that can carry three persons, it had said.

In 2008, a Naval Task Group was assigned in Pagadian after the provincial government of Zamboanga del Sur expressed that the Navy intensify its campaign against piracy. On its first week of operation, the group arrested 21 suspected pirates.

For unknown reasons, the unit was dissolved after a few months.

Basilan Vice Gov. Al Rasheed Sakaluddin was on his way to the area yesterday, escorted by a platoon of soldiers and police, to investigate the killings, Khu said. With an AP report

ANTI-OUTSOURCING

No need to fear US bill

DAVAO CITY—The bill prevailing in the United States Congress barring American companies from outsourcing jobs overseas will fail to pass for lack of support, according to information and communications technology (ICT) planners.

Lizabel Holganza, vice president of the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP), said the bill, which is being deliberated on Capitol...

Bill, was actually a rehash of a 2004 bill that Californian Rep. Lin Figueroa had tried to table unsuccessfully.

NICP is the umbrella organization of the Philippines' 26 information and communications technology groups.

Nothing new

"It is not a new bill because in 2004 Senator Jim Figueroa of California tried to lobby for the same but failed due to lack of support from US businessmen," Holganza said.

Holganza said US companies would be the first to object as such a bill, since outsourcing is "fueled by their desire for long-term growth, competitiveness and profitability."

Earlier, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II and Isabela Gamar Rep. Jew Innalvarez urged the government to send a lobby group to Washington to mark for the temporarily of the call center bill. Gonzales said he was worried the bill's passage would kill the country's business process outsourcing industry (BPO), valuable in dollar to mostly American companies.

Innalvarez had said the passage of the bill could result in the loss of job of some 800,000 call center agents and the loss of some $9 billion in revenues.

Wilfredo Ila-a, executive director of the Cebu Educational Development Foundation for IT (CEDF IT) said the Philippines has become a leader among American companies because "Indians are businessmen, not like any other, will always look for location that will give them more value for their money."

Main challenge

"So as long as we give them the best quality service at the right cost, plus timely delivery, we will always be the preferred location," he said.

"The main challenge is to be globally competitive always."

Holganza said in case the bill gets approved in the US Congress, the BPO industry would still survive.

She said industry players from Cebu, Iloilo and Davao had initiated new market promotions targeting Asia and Europe, as other moves in the US market.

In statement, the NICP also made reference that "the business process outsourcing industry will continue to be one of the biggest sources of job creation and revenue generation in the Philippines for 2012." Gerardine Lucero, Inquirer Mindanao

'Kindergarten on wheels' parks at QC school

By Tara Quintanilla

FIVE-year-olds at a Quezon City public school have a new classroom—and it's not schools.

The Bagong Bumatayan party-list group, the Quezon City government and the Department of Education (DepEd) yesterday launched the city's first Kindergarten on Wheels, touted to be an "innovative, creative solution" to school overcrowding in urban areas.

The P800,000 learning truck was inaugurated in the Pembilot Extension Aquino Elementary School near the Congress complex in Batasan Hills in commemoration of the late president's 79th birthday today.

"This is in tribute to former President Cory Aquino on her 79th birthday, ensuring her love for the youth. This is very important because at the age of five children absorb everything. It can change their future," said Bagong Bumatayan Rep. Bernadette Herrera Dy.

Sy Bhed the bill converting Batasan Hills Elementary School after Aquino in 2010.

The mobile classroom was a project of Cyber mobile computer classroom program which has a fleet of 26 vehicles bringing information technology education to schools across the country.

Equipped with audio-visual equipment, the air-conditioned, 24-seat mobile classroom can hold almost 100 students in five shifts, its said. Currently, more than 800 students take turns using five kindergarten classrooms at Aquino Elementary and the barangay.

Gemma Bobis, Quezon City education superintendent, said most city public schools hold two shifts of classes as the student population has annually increased. Efforts to build has also become a problem for Quezon City schools as the city has run out of land to build on.

"We chose a Quezon City elementary school because here, 632 kindergarten pupils are only five classrooms. Kindergarten on Wheels can double the classrooms by 100 students," Dy said.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro said the mobile kindergarten classroom could be turned elsewhere once the ongoing construction of additional classrooms at Aquino Elementary was finished.

Oral sex can lead to cancer, health, dental experts say

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HEALTH and dental experts yesterday cautioned Filipinos than oral sex with a partner with genital warts can increase the risk of cancer...even more than smoking and drinking.

The finding linking a virus that causes genital warts to oral cancer was tackled at a recent joint scientific conference of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) as part of this year's celebration of National Cancer Consciousness Week.

People who have had more than two oral sex partners were nine times more likely to have cancer of the pharynx, tongue or throat, said the PMA, referring to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

In a statement yesterday the PMA cited studies showing that the human papilloma virus (HPV), mainly responsible for cervical cancers among women, can also cause oral cancers in both men and women who engage in unprotected oral sex.

It further warned that many young Filipinos were vulnerable to oral cancers as "many teenagers of today are more sexually adventurous."

Citing a study by the University of the Philippines Population Institute, it said that at least 4.23 million Filipinos aged 15 to 24 were already sexually active. Of this number, only 20 percent use protection such as condoms.

"The popular practice of unprotected oral sex can lead to various infections of the oral cavity. However, infections of the mouth can result to the formation of oral cancers" the PMA quoted Movement for Early Detection of Cancer Consultant, Dr. Vic Flores Chua as saying.

Aside from the HPV, normally transmitted infections—such as herpes, gonorrhea, chlamydia...contracted through oral sex can also lead to cancers of the mouth, noted Chua.

A related study conducted by the PDA's Manila Dental Chapter showed a 1% prevalence of oral human papilloma virus infections. At least 1.5 percent were in the precancerous and oral cancer stage.

"Any lesion of the mouth [which] is not seriously considered ... and will not develop into cancer but malignancy must always be taken as an imminent possibility" said Dr. Anne Gomez, president of the PDA's Manila dental chapter.

A regular checkup with a dentist will help detect malignancies in the mouth, she said.

PMA president, Dr. Cesar Yniguez said the joint conference also tackled such health issues as the promotion of breastfeeding, the prevention of tuberculosis and the control of hypertension.

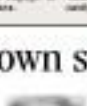
The conference was part of the organization's nationwide campaign against noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), which includes cancer.

"NCDs, which cause 60 percent of all disease-related deaths worldwide, are lifestyle-driven diseases and can actually be prevented," noted Ynigez.

"The PMA, together with our health partners, would like to take a multisectoral approach in our information and prevention drive against these dreaded diseases," he added.

Lagman goes down swinging

By GMC Cabacungan


LAGMAN

HOUSE Minority Leader Edcel Lagman yesterday relinquished his post on Question Rep. Imelda Marcos but not without a parting shot at former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo whom he has accused of plotting his arrest.

"I cannot continue to associate politically with some opposition members who are closely linked and beholden to the former President as much as that they succumb to the importuning of a patron. I cannot allow the minority to lose its credibility and independence by becoming a mere mouthpiece of the former President," said Lagman in a speech.

Lagman insisted there was no vote-shutting superimposed with Nueno.

"What the Nueno statement achieved was to indelibly show the hand of the former President," Lagman said, pointing out that Arroyo's two legislator sons and appointees were among the notable supporters of Nueno for the minority leader post.

Nueno took the high road and did not speak ill of Lagman in his acceptance speech at the plenary after Lagman resigned.

"Congressman Lagman and I should agree to disagree regarding how this event has played out. The minority bloc will continue to hold on as a united bloc opposition as extrapolated by the track of Congressman Lagman being a vigilant facilitator of the opposition. We are continuing our invitation for him to be part of the minority bloc [as his] legislative and political experience is needed in these challenging times," said Nueno.

Lagman has resigned from the Laban-Kampi party and has announced that he would remain an independent. He said he could not go over to the majority bloc because of policy differences.

Angelo C. Espinosa: 66

ANGELO Calma Espinosa of Turbo and Quezon City died yesterday at St. Luke's Medical Center from lingering illness. He was 66 years old.

He is survived by wife Nenita of Olongapo City; children Angelo Patrick and Aimee Patrice, siblings Angel, Angelita and Angelina (Calliope).

Viewing will be at the funeral parlors at Araneta Ave., Quezon City, until Easter day. Interment will be announced later.

Kin, activists mark 1st year of Ortega slay

By Bonifacio Javier
Reporter Southern Luzon
and Philip Tubeza

ENVIRONMENTALISTS and human rights activists yesterday drew call for justice for Gerry Ortega on the anniversary yesterday with simultaneous protest actions in Manila and Puerto Princesa.

Family members and prosecutors called on the Department of Justice (DOJ) to speed up the filing of charges against the former Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes and former Marinduque Gov Antonio "Boy" Carrion, whom they alleged to be the masterminds.

A three-man DOJ panel in June last year had dismissed the allegations against Reyes and some others. However, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima formed a new panel to review the case and receive new evidence.

Ortega's eldest daughter, Rilla, claimed in a press conference on Monday that the family had submitted to the DOJ panel "more than enough evidence ... to establish probable cause (against Reyes)."

"We're hoping to finally get to trial," Rilla added.

In a court hearing against an arrested suspect, Marlon Ebuenilla, his prosecutors was witness yesterday formally repeated allegations that Reyes and Carrion had conspired to kill the broadcaster.

The solicitor, Rodolfo Ediza Jr., said is he heard Reyes' secretary aide, told the judge he was ordered by Reyes to kill Ortega and another journalist, and had hired Ebuenilla to do the job for P150,000.

Reyes has denied any association with killed.

Supporters of the slain Ortega have formed a movement to pressure the DOJ and Malacañang to focus on the case.

The remaining priest contended the case has "languished as the DOJ for too long despite the strong evidence that should already establish probable cause against the masterminds."

"The President should take a strong position against media killings and really do something about it," he said.

Ortega's widow, Bella, told reporters "anything can happen as the DOJ" but expressed hope that the new panel of prosecutors will favor their plea.

She said the new evidence submitted by the complainants included phone records, surveillance video and communications between Governor Reyes and his bodyguard, Ishiel Jr., on the exact day Ortega was killed, while Reyes was running in Switzerland.

"The Aquino government should exert efforts equal to their prosecution of (Chief Justice Renato) Corona to bringing to justice the perpetrators of killings and other human rights violations against environmental advocates such as Dr. Gerry Ortega," said Cleonor Bautista, Kalikasan PNE national director.

Kalikasan said it had recorded 11 cases of human rights violations that involved environmentalists since 2001 and nine of them happened under the present regime.

CIDG cops deny kidnap, extortion

By DJ Yap

AGENTS of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) are being investigation over an alleged attempt to extort $1 million from a businessman that was diverted on an illegal firearms charge in December.

CIDG Director Samuel G. Pagdilao Jr. said he ordered the chief of the Intelligence and Counterintelligence Crime Division (ANCEID), Supt. Hosea Espalo, and team leader Chief Insp. Benicio Ocampo to prevent them from harassing the victim-businessman.

In a separate statement, however, the CIDG denied its agents had kidnapped Ah Chui Yeo and demanded a ransom for his release.

Pagdilao said Yeo was arrested by the CIDG as a result of "a legitimate operation against foreign nationals who are members of high-profile organized crime groups, procured by vague members of Philippine law enforcement."

He said Yeo was involved in the large-scale well-funded and well-organized fraudulent trade in wrong metal, particularly copper. He did not elaborate.

Yeo was arrested on Dec. 27 near the ISM Mall of Asia in Pasay City for illegal possession of firearms. AFCCD agents confiscated from him a 9-mm Made IV Series 70 pistol with three magazines and 36 rounds of ammunition.

Ah Chuck, of PNP Firearms and Explosives Division recently showed the gun belonged to Quee Chang who was believed to be a member of a crime syndicate but who was reportedly out of the country.

Yeo was charged with illegal possession of firearms in the Department of Justice.

Pagdilao said the allegation that Yeo was kidnapped means after Janet Villareal, country manager of Octagon Metal Co., reported on Dec. 19 to the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response that Yeo and Benjamin Sangsanan had been kidnapped.

Yeo, had been missing since Dec. 16.

The CIDG turned Yeo over to Bicol on Dec. 19 to clarify the issue about his supposed kidnapping.

Accused in Pestaño slay want raps junked

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE Navy officers charged with murder in the death of Gen. Philip Pestaño yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the charges against them and to defer their arrest while their plea was being resolved.

In a motion to quash the information filed against 7 officers, said it was the military court and not the Sandiganbayan that had jurisdiction over them.

They also said the charge sheet filed by the Office of the Ombudsman was defective for stating that Pestaño's killers committed not that Pestaño had two gunshot wounds in the head when he only had one.

The Office of the Ombudsman had ruled that Pestaño was murdered on the 2009 Barcelo City in 1995 and that his colleagues had conspired to make his killing look like a suicide.

Charged with Pestaño's murder were Capt. Ricardo Ordeñes, Elmh. Reynaldo Lopez, Lt. Cmdr. Leodegar Gatu, Lt. Cmdr. Alfredo Alba, Lt. Cmdr. Joselito Collera, Jr., Cmdr. Ruben Rupisa, PO1 Carlito Amoroso, PO1 Bill Lorence Iguanet, Hospital Man 2 Philemon Aquino and Machinery Repair man 2 Randy Miranda.

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Plastic & Brass Ball Valves

ERA

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REX

Pipe Threading Machines

GEKTERTION

INCRIMINATING SHOT This photo taken on Nov. 2, 2006, shows former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and husband Mike playing golf in Shenzhen, China, headquarters of the ZTE company.

NO PERMANENT FRIENDS Former Speaker Jose de Venecia (above) is at his own stand during the NBN-ZTE deal hearing at the Senate yesterday on Tuesday.

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Deadline of submission of Bids: January 31, 2012 5:00 PM (STAR Head Office)

STAR reserves the right to reject bids at will. The disclosure of STAR shall be final and binding.

Only Filipino citizens and corporations at least 60% owned by Filipinos are qualified to participate in the bidding. Bidders must be present or duly represented by a person holding a written power of attorney signed by the bidder during the bid opening. Bidders must submit a duly accomplished bid form, together with the bid deposit in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check payable to Bank of Commerce, equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Bid deposit of the winning bidder will be applied to the purchase price. Bid deposit of the losing bidders will be returned after the bid opening. The winning bidder shall pay the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days from the date of the bid opening. Failure to pay the balance within the said period will result in the forfeiture of the bid deposit. The winning bidder shall pay all documentary stamp taxes, transfer taxes, registration fees and other charges relative to the transfer of the property. The winning bidder shall pay the real property taxes due on the property from the date of the bid opening. The winning bidder shall pay the association dues, if any, from the date of the bid opening. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of publication of the bidding. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the appraisal report. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the survey plan. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the tax declaration. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the title. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the tax declaration. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the survey plan. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the appraisal report. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid form. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid deposit. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid opening. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid publication. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid documents. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid evaluation. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid award. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid notice. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid letter. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid form. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid deposit. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid opening. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid publication. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid documents. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid evaluation. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid award. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid notice. The winning bidder shall pay the cost of the certified true copy of the bid letter.

Head Office: HAZEL ... DIANA ... OLIVE ... ISABEL ...

Branch Offices: EDSA ... MAKATI ... ORTIGAS ...

JDV: Abalos presence in China golf a big surprise

From page A1

deal between the Philippine government and the Chinese corporation, which was not reheard in his district as election chair. He is in detention on evidence with charges of electoral sabotage.

De Venecia testified that the golf game was followed by lunch at the ZTE headquarters. He said it was during lunch that ZTE's Philippine project was discussed and its officials tried to impress the then President with its new equipment.

ZTE had bagged the $329-million deal on January 2007 Philippine government offices nationwide through broadband technology, but the project, to be funded by a loan, was eventually canceled amid allegations of overpricing, kickbacks and delays.

Asked by Justice Jose Sarmiento of the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division why he was surprised to see Abalos, especially since the latter was known as a golfer, De Venecia said he would not have been surprised had he seen the then elections chair in a golf course in the cities of Baguio and Cebu.

He said he did not know Abalos was going to be in Shenzhen for the golf game, or that the Philippine panel was to be hosted by ZTE in Shenzhen.

He confirmed that a group picture that included Arroyo, her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, Abalos and himself, and that was featured in his biography was taken during the golf game. He observed that the Manufacturing Press Corps, which usually tailed foreign trips, was not present then.

Two surprises

De Venecia testified that he and his wife, now Pangasinan Rep. Gina de Venecia, were vacationing in Hong Kong during the All Saints' Day break in 2006 when he received a call from Arroyo, who was in the area.

He his testimony, the then President invited him to a round of golf but did not say where it would be held. He said his wife went to meet Arroyo at her hotel and joined her in the counter that was to take them to the venue. Mike Arroyo was also with them.

It was only when they were en route that Arroyo told him that the golf game was in Shenzhen, De Venecia said. He said that at the golf course, he and the other members of the group met with Abalos, ZTE executives, and an official of the local government of Shenzhen.

Abalos' presence "was one of the surprises I experienced," De Venecia said.

He said the first surprise was the fact that the golf game was to be held in Shenzhen, so far he had thought the venue would be in Kowloon or any of the New Territories in Hong Kong.

"The second surprise [was] we saw Chairman Abalos there," he said, but went on to describe the latter as a good friend and a well-known golfer.

Trying to impress

After the golf game, lunch followed at the ZTE headquarters in Shenzhen, which, aside from the Arroyos and ZTE officials were present, De Venecia said.

The ZTE executives gave the Philippine officials a guided tour of the place, and told them that the company was at the forefront of telecommunications development, he said. He added that Abalos also tried to strike up conversations between the hosts and the guests, including him.

"ZTE officials were obviously trying to impress the leader of the Philippines because they were going on to produce new equipment and facilities in [telecommunications], for the Philippines," De Venecia said.

During the lunch, a banker from China whose name De Venecia said he could not remember also said that his bank would be willing to provide funding to "ZTE's project in the Philippines."

However, De Venecia said, Arroyo told him that she preferred a build-operate-transfer (BOT) project which would be at no cost to the government.

Losing bidder

De Venecia also said that before the golf game, he was aware that Ericsson—since "lowly" de Venecia IV, a losing bidder for the NBN project—had wanted to submit a proposal to the government for a nationwide telecommunications network. The project would have been under the BOT scheme.

He said that he thought it was a good idea, and that he said so much to his son.

Asked if he discussed the project with Arroyo in Shenzhen, De Venecia said it was the subject of the matter and told him that his son's proposal was a good one.

Recently, another golf case was filed against Abalos, the Arroyos and former Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza also in connection with the NBN deal.

10 PH embassies, consulates to be closed; Palau appeals

By Tina G. Santos

AT LEAST 10 Philippine embassies and consulates will be closed down this year because of budgetary constraints, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

However, the DFA has not yet disclosed the list of the foreign diplomatic posts to be shuttered, saying it has yet to inform all the host governments.

"We have not disclosed the list yet. We're now in the process of informing the governments where the affected embassies and consulates are," said DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez.

"What you have been hearing are unofficial reports," he said.

The Palau President Johnson Toribiong has reportedly asked President Aquino to reconsider the government's decision to shut down the Philippine Embassy in the country.

Rationalization program

Hernandez said the Philippines currently has 94 embassies and consulates worldwide.

He said the closing down of posts is part of the rationalization program of DFA resources.

Diplomats affected by the closure will be reassigned to other posts.

"The DFA would like to rationalize and effectively use its limited sources to be of better service to Filipinos overseas and to the country as a whole," Hernandez explained.

He said the DFA conducted the post-based on the six pillars of Philippine foreign policy: enhancing national security; promoting economic diplomacy; preserving and promotion of the rights and welfare of Filipinos overseas.

"Each Team Going is cost-saving measures, other factors considered for closing down the foreign diplomatic posts were overall bilateral relationships with the host countries, the amount of trade, investments, the number of Filipinos that have to be served out of these posts, among others," he said.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto del Rosario, during a hearing of the Senate finance committee in October last year, said the recommendation to close the posts had been submitted to President Aquino for approval.

If the President would approve the recommendation, Del Rosario said the government could still serve its affected people through Philippine representatives from neighboring countries.

"In the manner we're doing so now. We can serve those posts from neighboring countries where we have embassies," he said.

Palau 'disheartened'

In a Jan. 23 letter to Mr. Aquino, a copy of which was obtained by this Inquirer, the Palau President said his country was "extremely disheartened" to learn that the Philippines was intending to close its embassy in Koror.

"On behalf of the government of the Republic of Palau, I write to implore and humbly request that your government reconsider its decision and plans in this regard and not close the Philippine Embassy in Palau," said Toribiong.

Following said the most compelling reason for maintaining the embassy in Palau is the presence there of some 5,000 Filipinos.

"These overseas workers from the Philippines comprise more than 20 percent of Palau's population, and about 40 percent of all foreign workers in Palau, or around 25 percent of the country's total workforce," he said.

Following said Palau's economy would also suffer from the embassy's closure as "Filipinos are employed in practically all job categories, from professionals to practitioners and service workers."

"The Filipino overseas workers are a vital component of Palau's economy," he said.

Shutting down the embassy in Palau will also affect Filipinos in neighboring countries, such as those working in Micronesia and Marshall Islands because they transact with the embassy in Palau, Toribiong said.

With Allen Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao

Comelec 'promo' hit

A OVERSEAS migrants' rights group in the Middle East has criticized a Commission on Elections planned promo offering all-expenses-paid trips and gift checks to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to encourage them to register and vote in the 2013 mid-term elections.

"The free trips and gift checks promo by the Comelec just to encourage OFWs to register is a cheap politicking scam. It is like we, OFWs, are trained like a trying kid that is given a candy to stop from crying," said John Leonard Monterona, regional coordinator of Migrante Middle East.

He had been urging the Comelec and the concerned agencies during Governance (GMA) to conduct an information and education drive on the overseas voters' registration to register poll abroad and in places where there are large concentrations of OFWs.

But he noted that no such drive or campaign has been started in various diplomatic posts in the Middle East even as the OFW registration had already started last November.

The Comelec earlier said the incentive was aimed at encouraging the dismal figures of OFW registration.

In the last two months, only 16,078 OFWs had registered for the 2013 elections, far below the Comelec's target of at least one million from an estimated 11 million Filipinos working abroad, the Comelec noted.

Monterona said the lack of an information and education drive was one of the reasons why the number of registered absentee voters has not reached the Comelec's 1 million target.

The Comelec budget for information and education campaign must be utilized to attain a higher number of registered absentee voters, he said. — Tina G. Santos

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday - January 26, 2011
Conversion of St. Paul

1st Reading: Acts 22:3-16 (or Acts 9:1-22)

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, where I was educated to the school of Gamaliel, according to the strict observance of our Law, and I was dedicated to God's service, as are all of you today. So far this way I persecuted it to the point of death and arrested its followers, both men and women, throwing them into prison.

The High Priest and the whole Council of elders can bear witness to this. From them I received letters for the Jewish brothers in Damascus and I set out to arrest those who were there and bring them back in Jerusalem for punishment. But as I was travelling along, nearing Damascus, at about noon a great light from the sky suddenly flashed about me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' I answered: 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me: 'I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you persecute.' The men who were with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. I asked: 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord replied: 'Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told all that you are destined to do.' Yet the brightness of that light had blinded me and not wishing to be led into Damascus like my companions.

There a certain Ananias came to me. He was a devout observer of the Law and well spoken of by all the Jews who were living there. As he stood by me, he said: 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' At that moment I could see and I looked at him. He then said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Just One and to hear the words from his mouth. From now on you shall be his witness before all the pagan peoples and tell them all that you have seen and heard. And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized and have your sins washed away by calling upon his name.'

Gospel: Mark 16:15-18

Jesus told his disciples, 'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, the one who refuses to believe will be condemned. These are the signs will accompany those who have believed. In my name they will cast out demons and speak new languages; they will pick up snakes and, if they drink anything poisonous, they will be unharmed. They will lay their hands on the sick and they will be healed.'

(Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila, Jaime Cardinal Sin, D.D., Archbishop; Most Rev. Ramon C. Arguelles, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop; Rev. Msgr. Hernando R. Coronado, Vicar General; Rev. Msgr. Rolando S. Dela Cruz, Chancellor; Rev. Msgr. Pedro C. Quitorio III, Moderator Curiae; Rev. Msgr. Ricardo Ang, Director, Archdiocesan Commission on Communications; Rev. Fr. Anscar Chupungco, O.S.B., Liturgical Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jerry Orbos, S.J., Social Action Consultant; Rev. Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, S.V.D., Biblical Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jose Clemente Ma. Ibarra, O.P., Theological Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jose Mario C. Francisco, S.J., Canonical Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J., Moral Consultant; Rev. Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino, Pastoral Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jose Cecilio Ma. Ibarra, O.P., Spiritual Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jose Mario C. Francisco, S.J., Canonical Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J., Moral Consultant; Rev. Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino, Pastoral Consultant; Rev. Fr. Jose Cecilio Ma. Ibarra, O.P., Spiritual Consultant)

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Court stops Camp John Hay takeover

Firm developing former US base cries foul, reveals gov't plan

BAGUIO CITY—A court here granted the Fil Estate-owned Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) a temporary restraining order (TRO) on Tuesday which prevented government agencies like the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) from taking over the development of the former American rest and recreation center here.

The BCDA had issued demand letters to the Camp John Hay developer, requiring it to pay an outstanding debt totaling P3.85 billion at the first week of January.

Alfredo Vilgasan III, CJHDevco executive vice president and chief operating officer, said the company is seeking payments due to government's contractual violations, among them its failure to provide all permits needed by the firm to fully develop the former rest and recreation base of US forces.

Negotiations to resolve this debt impasse broke down last year and the CJHDevco had asked for an arbitrator on Jan. 11 to mediate the feud. Thigpen said the firm submitted a 42-page complaint before the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center Inc., which sought to reclaim the 11 years that the company lost through a P14.44-billion damage claim.

Takeover moves

But CJHDevco, he said, vows to count the years of takeover fears.

Details of the TRO have not been made public on Tuesday. Thigpen said the court issued the restraining order to stop the imminent threat of an illegal takeover of Camp John Hay.

On Tuesday morning, he asked Mayor Mauricio Domogan for security support, citing reports made by the company's security officials that they had seen security personnel from the government stationed at some of CJHDevco's projects and stores. Among these CJHDevco properties are its hotels, The Manor and The Suites.

The report has not been validated by the John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), the government's estate manager. Its board of directors met on Tuesday for its weekly session.

Its Junior Elaine Aghayosi, JHMC president, on Tuesday said the firm is pursuing the collection of CJHDevco's outstanding debts.

Legal claims

Thigpen said the JHMC and BCDA could not legally take over the facilities because CJHDevco is pursuing its legal claims before an arbitration court.

On Jan. 9, CJHDevco also contested its 2008 reservation memorandum of agreement (MOA) with BCDA. The MOA served as a restructured lease agreement and a payment scheme for the developer's debts.

Thigpen said the company had asked the arbitration court to also consider the original lease agreement between CJHDevco and BCDA as "deemed rescinded," so BCDA can pay damages, as well as the cost of the suit amounting to P15 million.

"We only wanted two things [when we tried to extend frozen catch BCDA]. We asked to pay (extra) pro rata (in proportion) against (on what we were able to develop [because we were ground]) permits. The second thing we asked is that government renews the 11 years we lost due to its contractual breaches," he said.

A statement from CJHDevco attributed information about the takeover from a source in the BCDA that it would not identify.

"The BCDA is closely coordinating with the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (it's government lawyer of Camp John Hay) is legally justifiable," the statement quoted the BCDA insider as saying. *Nestor Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

> 'We only wanted two things...'

dian place
MAKATI
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6th Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City
Tel. No. 817-6678
RFO

THE FINE view from of Camp John Hay doesn't betray the conflicts gripping the offices that supervise and manage the former rest and recreation camp of US military forces.

Employees who sued top John Hay exec suspended

BAGUIO CITY—The John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC) suspended on Tuesday the employees they suspected of having orchestrated a complaint that JHMC employees filed at the Office of the Ombudsman last week against the firm's president, Dr. Annie Elaine Aghayosi.

At the start of the working day following a three-day holiday, a JHMC official ordered the 30-day preventive suspension of 15 of 17 employees who signed the complaint against Aghayosi for allegedly mismanaging the government-run Rizal's Block, said Network Gaya, the employees' lawyer.

"Having my clients under preventive suspension humiliates them and is administrative. They had to bask. They should respond to the complaint [instead of pursuing] the employees," Gaya said.

The suspension orders, which were signed by JHMC vice president Mira Abrahams, said the employees breached company trust for bringing out confidential documents and files.

JHMC oversees the operations of the Camp John Hay Special Economic Zone. It is a subsidiary of the Bases Group of Companies, which is administered by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

However, JHMC officials on the same day withdrew the suspension orders, except for the letter to Arthur Dilag, a member of Aghayosi's public relations staff, Gaya said.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Aghayosi said 16 of the employees had withdrawn their signatures from the complaint and had blamed Dilag for convincing them to sue her.

The complaint, which was filed on Jan. 26 at the Ombudsman and the Office of the President, focused on the series of purchases and reimbursements allegedly made by Aghayosi since she assumed as company president in 2011.

It claimed that Aghayosi's expenditures were luxurious and had exceeded limits set by law because she spent on meals and other items for her friends and relatives.

Aghayosi said she could not reply formally to the charges until she received an official copy and statement from the Ombudsman.

"I have nothing to hide. Everything is above board. All records are transparent and regularly audited," she said in a statement.

Lawyer Maryann Batiang, Gaya's co-counsel, said they were surprised that their clients were suspended because they had asked JHMC chair Silvestre Mabini to place the officials they charged at the Ombudsman under preventive suspension.

On Tuesday, the lawyers delivered to Mabini a copy of their clients' petition to the JHMC board, seeking an administrative investigation, she said.

JHMC, in a statement, said the employees' complaints may have been intended to discredit Aghayosi because "it was engaged on the eve of her testimony against Mrs Cristina Gutoma."

Aghayosi went to Manila yesterday to attend the impeachment trial of the Senate. *Nestor Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

More couples using law giving kids dads' names

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—More unmarried couples in this city have availed themselves of the law allowing children born out of wedlock to use the family name of their father.

Judy Borja, chief of the Tacloban City office of the civil registrar, said the number of children who have changed their family names to that of their fathers has increased from 833 in 2008 to 1,398 last year.

One of the couples who availed themselves of Republic Act No. 9255 (An Act Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname of their Father, amending the Family Code of the Philippines) that was passed in 2004, was Rudel and Marisel Bringas who have been living together for the past eight years.

Until recently, the couple's four children have been using the mother's family name. Bringas's three children started to use their father's family name last year while their youngest, a 3-year-old, legally started to use her father's family name on Tuesday.

This month, 37 couples have applied for a change of family names of their children.

To avail themselves of this law, the couple would have to pay P100 and submit valid identification of both parents and affidavits of both parents, including one acknowledging the father's consent.

Borja said the law was more for the benefit of the children.

"Using their fathers' names is their right. Imagine, they will be using their mothers' names without having a middle name?" she said.

Aside from being an inherent right, carrying a father's name gives a child a sense of security that he or she has a father, Borja said.

Kin of missing cling to hopes loved ones alive

ILIGAN CITY—In the absence of something more solid to hold on to, relatives of some of the missing in the Dec. 17 disaster that struck this city and Cagayan de Oro City have been clinging to the one thing that keeps their hopes alive—dreams.

After search and retrieval operations for the missing stopped, the task of finding answers, treatment and children who can't be accounted for has fallen on their relatives.

As of Jan. 16, a report by the city social welfare and development office said at least 966 persons are missing.

The National Bureau of Investigation continues to receive information on the missing persons, though.

The relatives of those confirmed dead in the Dec. 17 disaster are expected to be at the city cemeteries to observe the 40th day of the deaths of their loved ones.

Relatives of those missing won't be among them. One of them is Lennon Galindo, 32, who had been frequenting the beach of Bayug Island for information on his family.

Galindo, a fisherman who salvaged his son's swim, at the loss survivor in his four-member family.

While he grieves over the loss of his wife, Teresita, their 9-year-old son Lorenzo and 11-year-old daughter Loreen, the absence of their bodies keeps him hoping they're still alive.

Lorenzo knows fear is shared by his family. Lorenzo has a vow from an apprehending Loren has a heartbreak on the left leg.

Rustie Balinas, 34, also frequents the beach of Bayug Island in search for his wife, Josephine, and 17 other members of his extended family.

Rustie vividly recalls that while negotiating the raging waters of flooding River in the height of the disaster, his wife clung to his back while he carried grandchildren Ethel Ann, 8, and Glen, 10, in his arms.

But a log floating in the water can smash into his back, throwing him forward and forcing him to lose his grip on the children, except for Ethel Ann who clung tightly.

Rustie, however, can't find the bodies of the other members of his family, including his wife Josephine.

On Dec. 21, an ID was found on the shores of Bayug. It belonged to Josephine and was all Rustie could hang on to.

"This is all that she left me," said Rustie.

Lori Bendaran, 39, said she saw how her 43-year-old husband Angelito Sr. was carried away by floods.

The couple, with their three teenage children, were clinging to a rope when a piece of big [illegible] Angelito.

Lori said she found her husband cry to pain, maybe after suffering from a heart attack as he was carried by the [illegible] waters.

Lori and 16-year-old son Angelito Jr. were also washed out to sea but survived. They can't, however, find Angelito Sr.'s body.

"I always pray that he shows himself to my dreams," Lori said. She said her husband "wanted for people but he didn't want people to worry for him." Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

SURVIVORS of the Dec. 17 disaster in Iligan City find temporary homes in tents.

Fears that sunken ship will spill oil allayed

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—The Coast Guard said there were no signs of an oil spill on the coast of Batiquin near where a cargo vessel sank on Sunday.

Lt. Glen Dimog, Coast Guard station commander in Batiquin, said Coast Guard men saw no oil sheen or a thin film of oil near the site of the sinking on Monday but there was no indication of a massive leakage of oil from the sunken vessel.

"We are continuously monitoring the site but so far there's no indication of an oil spill," Dimog said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

The vessel MV Seabird 2, owned by Seabird Shipping Inc., sank on Sunday morning after sailing in stormy seas.

The vessel was on its way to the port of Lipata in Cuba's town in Batiquin from Liquet in Mindoro Oriental when it met an accident on Saturday.

All 18 crew members were rescued. The ship was carrying 35,000 bags of cement and 7,000 liters of diesel when it sank off the capital town of San Jose in Antique.

San Jose Mayor Rony Mollo an also said there was no sign of an oil spill. He said residents near the area reported the smell of fuel for several hours on Monday.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Assoc. Ed./Rolando B. Fernandez

Dead Benguet pine gives life to tree monument in Baguio

By Vincent Cabreza and EV Espiritu
Baguio City

SOMETIMES, it takes a woman to make a point about Baguio City's diminishing pine cover.

A 200-year-old Benguet pine (*Pinus kesiya*) that was declared dead by the environment department last year has been reshaped into a 30-foot tall "Mother Earth" monument in the city's remaining pine forests.

ARTISTS reshaped a dead 30-foot pine tree on a road leading to Mines View Park into a woman of Mother Earth. ALWIN C. BAUTISTA

Blessed by a numbering ceremony priest, the pine sculpture was unveiled by artists on Jan. 23 along the road leading to Mines View Park, one of the top tourist sites in the summer capital.

Tourists who drive through Barangay Pacdal, Asin will need to study the tree to see the images carved through its natural contours, including a statue, two dogs and a lizard.

Gentillera woodcarvers worked for 15 days to turn the tree into a piece of art. The sculptors put up scaffolding around the tree and used safety gear and harnesses to climb it. They peeled off its bark and climbed through the trunk to create the giant form of "Idinya," a grassroots fashionista (wedding) in Ibaguio.

Norma Bayacon, one of the Ibaguio carvers, says Idinya is a symbol representative of Kabunian's (God's) beauty and kindness.

The tree made up the full form of Idinya, whose hands clasped her chest. The shape of a lizard was carved near her right hip to symbolize fertility. The image of a dagdag-ay, a viridian symbol representing Ibaguio hotels notability and friendship, is near the figure.

The face of Idinya is on the right side of the tree opposite Kabunian's face. The former faces Mines View Park. At the viewing, the artists installed a bird on the bird-of, a wooden figure that is believed to protect tree guardians in Ibaguio.

On a branch that stretched from the trunk is a small figure with outstretched arms. This represents Idinya's son, Bayacon says.

'Veteran Pine'

The tree was certified by the Tree Preservation Foundation of the Philippines in 1981 as the "Veteran Pine." A base marker was signed by then Mayor Ernesto Bonoan, parks planner David Gangagan, city engineer David Bolin, Association of Barangay Captains president Delfin Sadagdag, forestry officer Rosalio Cuya, and two other officials.

Rawayan de Guia, who oversaw and financed the project, says it was the artists' solution to the city's environmental problems, which has again taken center stage because of a shopping mall's plan to cut small volcanic mountain (500,000 trees to make way for its expansion.

De Guia says the artists stopped work on Friday to join the 3,000 people who marched on Session Road to protest the plan.

Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) say the Veteran Pine could be as old as 225 years. It toppled and died last year.

"I thought that simply cutting the giant tree for firewood would be lamentable, so last year, we petitioned [the city government] until the DENR to allow us to shape it into a big sculpture that would remind Ibaguio people and tourists why pine trees should be protected," De Guia says.

"This may be the first giant sculpture made out of a whole pine tree. This is our way of showing unconditional love for the environment, although I believe some people have become too spoiled and have neglected the trees."

According to a study, "Baguio's Urban Ecosystem," by Maria Lorena Clete of the Salvador Foundation, "the needs of the high-urbanized Ibaguio—coupled with the declining of its forest covers—have apparently outpaced its water resources, resulting in water shortages in the city."

Baguio's watershed reserves, where pine forests are still prominent, cover 146.2556 hectares, based on the 2010-2020 City Land Use Plan.

The study says the city is now dominated by residential land use, which takes up 64 percent of the total land area, leaving 12.36 percent of the territory as vacant forested areas and 2.57 percent of lands as active forest or watershed reserves.

In 2010, the City Environment and Parks Management Office revealed in part of increasing forest cover area to 1,205 ha or 22 percent of the total land area by planting more than 300,000 pine seedlings from 1999 to 2008.

But the Salvador study says the survival rate of these seedlings is only 70 percent and the city's reforestation areas have since been dedicated to other concerns.

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Logs keep coming as tree-cutting won't stop

DAMBANAWA CITY—The military said its troops were busy than the mountains of the Lanao provinces where illegal tree-cutting is still rampant.

But the bright side of it was that the seized timber would help solve the shortage of chairs in public schools, according to a military officer.

Col. Ismael Lazaro, chief of the 103rd Infantry Brigade (IB), said at least 52,307 board feet of logs have been seized by the military in recent operations.

There, he said, could be used to manufacture chairs and help fill the gap for chairs in public schools.

The logs have been seized since July last year and after the Dec. 17 disaster that struck Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro City. Lazaro said the logs are enough to make 6,000 school chairs.

The volume of the seized logs, according to a former truck driver he a logging firm, was enough for four two-story houses.

Armando Cabanser, who used to drive trucks carrying logs, said a single two-story house all made of wood would require at least 13,000 board feet.

Lazaro said more logs may have been felled prior to his assignment to Lanao in January 2011.

He said the 52,307 board feet of logs were seized in recent operations and cannot log those that have been seized prior to his days in Lanao. "In fact, our ground is already full," said Lazaro. The space that the 103rd IB uses to store the logs "is full of logs," he said.

Lazaro, also the commander of Task Force Ranao, has been designated by acting Interior Secretary Rogelio de Bluebird Jose Mejir Hamman to head a task force against loggers.

Lazaro told the reporters that the military has filed charges against Alfredo Ramsing, a suspected logger of Lumbaca Ingud of Tamparan, Lanao del Sur, and another suspect, Rudy Gumar of Barangay Bilolo in Marawi City.

He said cases were also being prepared against 20 more individuals.

"Our troops have literally turned into forest rangers," he added.

He said more civil and more local government officials have also come forward to help.

"Alongside the confiscation and charges, we also conduct education information among villagers especially in areas where logging operations are evident," Lazaro said. Jodie S. Alipalo, Inquirer Mindanao

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A SOLDIER examines a World War II-era bomb unearthed by workers building a beach resort in Cebu City.

Workers find WWII-era bombs

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Workers building a resort on a reclaimed area here unearthed at least 20 World War II-era aerial bombs that police said were still live.

Chief Insp. Gualberto Salinas, head of the Mandaue City police precinct, said 18 bombs were first found last Monday by workers digging to prepare for the construction of a riprap wall for a beach resort project in an area here known as Gavin Island and now part of the city-owned South Road Properties.

The workers sought police help and members of the city Special Weapons and Tactics team and the Mandaue City police rushed to the area.

Members of the military's ordnance division also arrived and retrieved the bombs.

Salinas said police at first thought there were only 18 bombs but the site yielded 12 more. More bombs are believed buried in the site but have yet to be unearthed.

Salinas said some of the bombs, weighing an average of 50 kilograms each, have been unstable and. Many others are still live, he said.

Officials of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources also went to the site to check reports that the bombs have leaked picric acid into the sea.

Picric acid is a toxic ingredient in explosives and could cause serious illness or death if swallowed, inhaled or rubbed onto skin.

Salinas quoted some of the workers as saying they saw dead fish in the area prior to the discovery of the bombs.

'Our troops have literally turned into forest rangers...'

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OPINION

Pathetic

FIRST, THE denial by way of a charge of fraud. "That press release is now turning out to be fake," Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said, referring to the side-memoire the World Bank had prepared, criticizing irregular procurements and disbursements made by the Court under a $21.9-million loan released in 2003, which was intended to fund programs for judicial reform.

EDITORIAL

Was it? The WB itself said it had not released the report, fueling talk that it was a hoax and merely the latest broadside smear in diplomatic Chief Justice Renato Corona. However, the WB statements did not deny the report's contents, only its provenance. A copy of the side-memoire had been sent to news organizations from an e-mail account the WB said wasn't its own. Eventually, the bank did confirm that it had conducted a review of the high court's implementation of the loan program, and that a report on it had been submitted on Dec. 20, 2011, to the Court, with copies furnished to relevant government agencies such as the Department of Finance, the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Budget and Management. That report and the leaked document happened to be identical. So, it was not fake.

Moreover, the side-memoire was submitted to the Court in late December 2011, or about two weeks before its public disclosure. How long does it take the court administrator to read a report like it—which, though couched in professional language, contains explosive charges of dubious, incompetent administration, among them "ineligible payments" of $149,900 that the Court must now refund, the purchase of computers "rated unsatisfactory," the "fiduciary environment ... as deteriorated" if it is now considered "high-risk," and that the project financial statements "can no longer be relied upon"? Though not named, Marquez himself was singled out by the report for his conflict-of-interest roles as concurrent court administrator, head of the Public Information Office and chair of the bids and awards committee, an arrangement that has "created a breakdown of the control environment, increased fiduciary and reputation risks, and led to irregular/inappropriate procurements and expenditure decisions."

A report that clumsy one's person and position so strongly would be read immediately by that person, correct? In Marquez's case, apparently not. For, while the Court has had a copy of the side-memoire since late December 2011, when asked to comment about it in the second week of January this year, Marquez instead imposed the report by claiming it was bogus. A simple comparison of the leaked document and the copy presumably occupying pride of place on his desk would have told him it was the same humbug. But he chose to be dishonest about it, while assuring the nation that "the Court has been and continues to be transparent and vigilant in its financial affairs."

With the "fake" canard becoming unusable, Marquez took another tack, denouncing its disclosure as improper: "The side-memoire is still confidential and the findings therein have yet to be confirmed," he protested. Translation: the high court, the one that "continues to be transparent and vigilant in its financial affairs," cannot be subject to the lawful, routine scrutiny the rest of the government is subject to, as the Court itself has ruled many times. From barring the release of judges and justices' statements of assets, liabilities and net worth to raise taking umbrage at a leak that asks some hard questions, the judiciary seems steeped in its own brand of omerta. How benevolent, then, to have to deal with a wayward but accountable bird that all but shatters that culture of secrecy.

Next, enter the minor injury defense. The $198,900 "ineligible" transactions, said Marquez, represented "only 0.1% percent of the loan." But whose did the money go? And isn't stealing the same under the law, whatever amount gets pilfered? Worse, must the Supreme Court now be defended on these pathetic grounds?

"Chief Justice Corona is fast jeopardizing the project," Marquez cried again. True, but the irregularities the World Bank noted began only in 2010, when Corona was already the Chief Justice.

Finally, down on his last card, Marquez sought a wholesale change of topic. The Aquino administration, he fumed, has "so many concerns to address, instead of focusing their attention on the judiciary. There's overtones in bile in cell points. We have investment groups complaining. The victims of 'flooding' still don't have their houses on live in."

Non sequitur. There ought to be a law against it.

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Erap on impeachment trial

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HOW DOES former President Joseph Estrada, who was himself impeached and ousted from the presidency, not by the senate impeachment court but by People Power I, feel about the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona?

"Corona is more fortunate than me," he said. "Corona is being given due process—too much, I think—for I was ousted by mob rule. Worse, the Supreme Court, which is supposed to give justice to everyone, denied me justice by ruling that I had resigned. I never resigned, either in writing or verbally, but the Supreme Court said it was a constructive resignation, I think to find it intervened and ousted for the first time every one."

Erap has reason to feel aggrieved. He was replaced by his vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, not for any of the reasons enumerated in the Constitution—death, permanent disability, resignation, impeachment—but for a "constructive resignation." The honorable justices could not find any justifiable reason to oust him as they invented one.

It was not the impeachment trial that did it. The Senate trial was cut short when the prosecutors walked out after a majority of the senators voted against opening an envelope whose contents supposedly incriminate Erap. (When the envelope was opened later, after Erap had already been ousted, it contained nothing to incriminate.)

The walkout led to People Power II, and a mob marched to Malacañang. Erap was forced to leave the Palace.

The presiding officer of the impeachment court, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, should have dismissed the case against Erap for failure to prosecute, but he did no such thing. Instead, he made sure to achieve what the impeachment court could not, for was rewarded by GMA later with an appointment as ambassador to the United Nations, even though that position is to succeed his career diplomats.

The high court has committed many abuses, Erap said, and with the impeachment trial of Corona, it is, for the first time, under attack "mutually."

"I admire PNoy for having the courage to do what he did," Erap said. "It is long overdue."

It seems that PNoy cannot hesitate, he added. "He must have thought about it at least 12 times before he did it."

Erap thinks that the Lust Corona should get it a "scissors" from the Senate impeachment court.

He also thinks that what is happening to Corona and his patron, GMA, in Manila ("They remember many episodes, some they are proud of, he think. They have wronged many people, now the shoe is on the other foot. Now they feel how their victims felt."

"Manila is hotter in GMA when you were confined in the Rose Lagoon," Erap wisecracked.

"Then—long, long time," the former President resumed. "She didn't tell me anything. After the picture taking, she left. Long before she arrived, the Philippine Army photographers were set up, with cameras, lights and all. When she arrived, she and practically nothing. 'How are you?' She came, she walked and then she stepped down and left."

"She also visited you at the Veterans (Memorial) Medical Center, if I'm"

"Photo-op she 'pon," Erap replied. "She arrived, pictures were taken, then she left. Out of courtesy, I accompanied her to the driveway. When the pictures had been taken of the second floor windows case so, they began shouting: 'Erap, Erap, Erap pa rin!' The next day, I was prohibited from showing myself in the courtyard."

Erap has made a documentary about his victories and travails. He titled it "My Memoirs." It chronicles his ascent from the bottom, to mayor of San Juan, to senator, to president, and his unlikely re-president, with the highest majorities ever in the history of the Philippines, and then his fall from power.

Back to basics

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE IRONIES seem Franklin Drilon exhibited from questioning witnesses. The ironies for this, they say, is that he has chosen partiality to the prosecution. He did this apparently on two occasions last week. The first allows for vacated the Supreme Court clerk of court, Enriqueta Esguerra-Vidal, to admit she had with her Renato Corona's SALNs, and the second when he made Taguig City register of the deeds Randy Bautista testify that Corona acted as "attorney in fact" for his daughter in the sale of a property to Del 21, 2006.

The defense lawyers, of course, it wasn't amused. At the very least because the technicalities they are raising are always be met by the trick: deciding that the senator-judges are not bound by strict rules of court. In no know that the defense is just playing up to the gallery, the wider one, which is the public watching the trial on TV. They want to give the impression that Corona is being ganged upon. It won't really get very far.

But the public, the question is really simple. Did Drilon observe the truth or allow it to come out in his questioning? And the answer is equally simple. Corona himself has been telling the world he has nothing to hide. If so, why shouldn't his SALN be made known to the public? If so, why shouldn't his title in transactions on behalf of his family be made known to the public? Drilon can always argue that he is a lawyer and his lawyer's instincts, or excising, got the better of him.

In the end, which will the public really mind, questioning that reveals the truth or legal technicalities that hide it?

I agree that to the extent possible, the senator-lawyers should refrain from aggressive or brazen displays of partisanship. I applaud in that respect the fact that Drilon, Francis Escudero, Ralph Recto and Teofisto Guingona III, all Liberal Party members, did not attend the EJ anniversary last Friday to avoid controversy. It does help to make those guys, turn, but whether they do so or not, one thing remains clear about the impeachment court: whether the conduct of the senator judges and the truth or unjust it.

Mixing politics and law is not normally a bad pass. Indeed, in this country, it can be good for loads of things. The last time Erap has been more an arcane subject, accessible only to a priesthood dedicated to it, who are the lawyers. For he too long has politics meant a privileged domain, to which only select members, who are the politicians. What this has done to democratizers has completely erased the public and wrong has nothing to do with it. What this has done is to alienate politics completely from the common good, public welfare, has nothing to do with it. What this has done is to reduce both law and politics to purely private interests.

Starting both law and politics to submit to the rules of reason opens windows to events full of wide air. Erap's impeachment trial inspired the public to talk like lawyers and the youth to aspire to become lawyers again. That wasn't because of the lawyers' interest in educating the public or indeed because the senator judges exercise their brains and became paragons of objectivity. That was because for the first time in a long time, the court showed the public how the law at its best, when freed from chapter and verse, can be used to mean something to the lives of the people.

What lawyer? Maybe this time around, the impeachment trial will go further. Maybe it won't just do that for law, maybe it will do that for politics too. Maybe it will inspire the public to talk like politicians and the youth to aspire to become politicians themselves. That won't be so because the defense will keep insisting the senator judges leave politics out of the trial, or indeed because the senator judges will be able to completely transcend their biases and partisanships. That will be so because for the first time in a long time, the court will show the public how politics at its best, when freed from narrow self-interest, can be used to make the country better. Or at least to quiet for it.

We can't get more basic than that.

Aquino's single-issue presidency

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

NO EVENT in the first 20 months of the Benigno Aquino III presidency defines his single-issue administration more sharply than the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Mr. Aquino has poured all his scarce, ego and the vast powers of the presidency into the effort to impeach Corona, in the conviction that he is remotely worked former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and to remove him from the Supreme Court for allegedly biased decisions in favor of Arroyo and for graft and corruption.

The obsession with sending Arroyo to jail on charges of electoral sabotage and collusively carrying Corona from the leadership of the Court has now crystallized into the impeachment trial. It is the Aquino government's main claim of accomplishment, to the exclusion of the other tasks of the presidency, especially revitalizing the economy as a means of creating jobs, bringing income to the poor, and reducing the incidence of poverty. The trial, now on its second week, has exerted public attention to the detriment

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Rules of procedure used vs truth

LETTERS

Add INQ all said to know that truth may be taken dead when no believers is in?

The fact is that the human mind is wired wire to evade the truth. Thus, in law, we have "rules of procedure" which allow intention that only are, quasi-realization. This makes the pursuit of truth is difficult to process. Thus, lawyers are able to confuse an issue just to score a "point of order." The point of course is, if justice must be served, judges must see through any shenanigan or deception, especially by "experts in law."

So much time is wasted during trials because of semantics. In our own, several lawyers give in to the urge to be "clever"! The fact is that, in court trials, many lawyers join in on this urge, thus losing the window to discern and uphold the spirit of truth and, at the same time, dashing a mockery of the proceedings, in a way avoider that our system of justice is subjective such that it even encourages so much verbal incapability and dishonesty? Indeed, too much of mental relativism makes the spiritual immaturity.

For example, don't do not "self-flatulate" simply the truth from you. Because it encourages lying. If you are clean, why stop the truth to yourself? The right against self-incrimination sounds like an admission of guilt. Indeed, we have directed the wrong party. Shall we encourage the denial of our own wrongdoing? Are we just all required "to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth"?

We must realize that many errors are made in the name of "exactness." The loss is it's difficult to free ourselves from our delusions...which must be done before we can discern the spirit of truth.

—BRIGITTE KELLI MACEDO,
crmcommagroup@gmail.com

Message from the Nazarene

A DAY before the Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo, President Aquino warned of health threats. Observers thought only a few would dare join the procession; it was the complete opposite. Never in the history of the Black Nazarene were there so many devotees. This year, some 6.5 million people in all, a new size the largest procession, 22 hours from dawn to dusk, one hours longer than the usual. Allow talents of the nervous broke down, practically right at the heart of the Muslim enclave, a sign perhaps of the bond among countless Muslims and Christians. People slept on the pavement, waiting for the image to pass their streets. While the fiesta procession seemed to make a dream out due to the delay, millions came out in droves to present.

There are two messages in this historic affair, one from the Nazarene, and the other from the Filipino devotees. The message from the devotees is a simple prayer. "He will never abandon me, Lord, even amid the greatest trials this mind be. He will always endure in love." And the message from the Lord in return is just as simple: "I will never abandon you because you have me abandoned me. I am the servant, you are the vine. Your true life as I flow forth into you as rain that nourishes your fields. I am the vine. You are the branches. Abide in Me as I abide."

—HENRY LOPEZ,
rolgan77@gmail.com

Full of passion but lacking in substance

Even in a reaction to Gutierrez de Quiroz' solution asked "Looking ahead." (Nov. 1, 2011, 1:08/12) Honestly, I am one of the many readers who find the article of Liz Quiroz full of passion but lacking in substance. Well, I admire him for the honesty and order of the words he uses, words so powerful that they are the process, words woven in the thread of consistency and ribbon of life, but not convincing. In Logic 101, his arguments would fall under the fallacy "ad populum" appealing to the people's purely through sentiment.

Dr Quiroz is so eager to see Chief Justice Renato Corona removed from office, or convicted by the impeachment court, and publicly humiliated, that he has lost sight of the reality that would reply: for the sake of the 90-something people, for the country, he/she/it deserve and as an end in them. Perhaps the "people" he is referring to are the members of the newly inspired organization. Before me for using that logical fallacy—just to remind Dr Quiroz that millions of our people are not affected by the impeachment case, directly or indirectly, for they are focused on surviving every passing day or on wishing to clean rooms to learn to be brilliant and wise, not to be billionaires.

Who is Dr Quiroz that to say the Chief Justice sounds among the dying? The Chief Justice is not dying, Dr Quiroz is. The perseverance, too. They are all dying to find some grounds to convict the Chief Justice. Just like the prosecutors who are so prepared for press conferences but not for the impeachment trial, Dr Quiroz, who reluctantly writes his opinions, has a penchant for grandstanding. He style is purely rhetoric.

Perhaps after this, Dr Quiroz will write again against Corona, enthusiasting him through the use of his pen or keyboard. And just in case Corona will be convicted, it would be wise to award Dr Quiroz for his courage against him and in "sustaining" the misdeeds of his people.

Anyway, I am grateful to Dr Quiroz, too, for his articles which stimulate my heart and, two, for his weak reasoning which inspire me to deploy a fallacy.

—CARLOS JOSEPH HAGEDO,
bjgcdocsfromwriter@yahoo.com

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It's more fun hearing Noy use new DOT slogan

From page A1

ing ceremony for a new aviation school here, the President played around the catchphrase as he formally welcomed the Canadian firm CAE as the partner of Cebu Pacific Air Inc. in establishing the Philippine Academy of Aviation Training (PAAT).

"I hope that you never lose [any enthusiasm to experience] the [corporate jackass moments] it is related to the Philippines," he said, drawing applause from the audience that included JG Summit chair emeritus John Gokongwei Jr. and his son Lance, the airline company's president and chief executive officer.

"So because of [the campaign slogan] started by our Department of Tourism, tomorrow will be later today that we're making a movie or a film in the Philippines," he later said.

The first mention came a few minutes later: "Visit assured that our administration will do what we can to make certain that conveniences—from both here and abroad—will you. Streamlined good reasons to invest here. [with] our highly educated workforce and people, a market that is beginning to realize its potential, and of course, the Filipino's hospitality and light-heartedness. It is, as we say again, truly more fun in the Philippines."

And then the fourth: "It is more fun in the Philippines, but we remain aware that economic growth is not built on hard work and excellence."

Somewhere along the speech that lasted just a little over seven minutes, the President noted that the slogan "seems to be repeated often this day."

And after making a segue to the slogan for the third time, he said: "I hope I see to my joy, by George Lance, [laughter] ... [referring to the Gokongwei chief who launched the now-oddly viral marketing ploy on Jan. 6].

Best salesman

Jimenez, who was among the officials who accompanied the President here, was, of course, smiling ear to ear. "I think at a time like this when you have a good thing going, the President is your most important, most influential salesman," he told reporters.

The secretary observed that the President's timing was "very appropriate" and that the spontaneity with which he delivered the line made it all look "natural."

"I [think] Mr. Aquino himself enjoyed saying it, as you can see," he said.

In the speech, Mr. Aquino agreed with Jimenez's earlier reasoning that selling the Philippines to tourists should be as easy as promoting a popular local brand of fast-food fried chicken, noting much to the country's national wonders and the cheerfulness of its people.

Sign of confidence

Mr. Aquino lauded the $30-million PAAT as an expression of confidence from companies like Cebu Pacific and CAE in the Filipinos' talent and potential.

"[PAAT] offers Cebu Pacific a competitive position as a hub for aviation training in the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Jaime Bautista, Cebu Pacific vice-president and the budget airline's chief executive, said the P1-billion milestone is milestone," referring to the 15 million passengers it ferried last year and since the establishment of the PAAT.

The school is also a testament to Cebu Pacific's project in Clark. The first was a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility inside the Clark Civil Aviation Complex.

Regaining FAA nod

The President also said the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines remained focused on regaining its Category 1 status under evaluation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States.

"A positive outcome will result in the expansion of airline capacity which will indeed [be] a boon for airline industry, more mobility for passengers and affordable prices forward and equitably progressive economy," he said.

The mid-FAA audit is classified month, according to Jimenez: "They will not audit you if you are not prepared," he said.

The President also recounted how the country's aviation industry had taken off since the first flights by Filipino pilots Fernando Amaya and Juan Calvo from Manila to Cebu in 1936 and the operation of its first terminal thereafter.

Soar high

"In the end as a bottom line, I want our country to progress in the same way the aviation industry has done. What we want to do can be stated simply: We want to change the way this country works. We want to improve the lives of our people. And we want to put an end to corruption so that we can put an end to poverty," he said.

"If we all focus, if we do things we can and need to do, no matter how small, if we always strive for excellence and we do not lose sight of our dreams for this country, then surely we can soar higher than we already have. Those our rule, and today we are a step closer to our shared aspirations of a progressive Philippines," he said.

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Deadline of submission of Bids	February 3, 2012 5:00 PM (STAR Head Office)

HEAD OFFICE:

P-Noy's man no poster boy for antipiracy drive

From page A1

on Congressional Avenue, Quezon City, on Monday night.

With his two burning-chest security aides hovering nearby, Llamas seemed relieved by the people who recognized him as a Palace courier as he browsed through the 8 legal merchandise.

Llamas left his office picking his titles, from 7:30 to 8 p.m. He was accompanied by two women who also bought a few DVDs he themselves.

P2,000 worth of DVDs

After paying for the merchandise, he and his companions casually left the stall and headed to the nearest eatshow, toting their purchases discreetly in black plastic bags.

A check with the mall vendor revealed that Llamas bought almost P2,000 worth of DVDs that night.

"It's not a big purchase, but it's Llamas," the vendor told the writer in Filipino.

Repeated phone calls and text messages to Llamas yesterday remained unanswered at press time.

No penalty for buyer

Told of the Llamas sighting, Optical Media board chair Ronnie Ricketts was not too happy.

Ricketts conceded that the government could not do anything about it when someone—even a Palace official—buys pirated DVDs because the country's antipiracy laws impose no penalty on the customers.

"There's no law penalizing those who buy is just for their personal use," the OMB chair explained.

But if "eight or more copies were bought, that is another thing," he said. "That could mean the buyer was engaging in business himself," he added.

A few enforcement officers who recognized Llamas, when asked how they felt upon seeing a presidential spokesperson, official having pirated DVDs, didn't hide their disappointment.

"Now I know why I should not expect our government's campaign against piracy to make a dent. If a government official has no fear or qualms whatsoever about buying pirated materials, what more the ordinary people?" said Estrella Bani, a regular Circle Cubaopen.

"I will not think twice about buying pirated copies anymore considering that a government official like him is doing it. So for the money for it, so do I. But on second thought, I'd rather not," said another shopper, Ellen de dato.

Gun controversy

"Obviously what he did was illegal and the President might again come to his defense, like what happened when the public found out that he was keeping an assault rifle," said a man in his 50s who asked not to be named for fear of his safety.

In October last year, Llamas came under fire after his Mitsubishi Montero, then being used by one of his security aides, figured in an accident on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City—and yielded a Czech-made CZ-858 Tactical semiautomatic assault rifle to the investigating police operatives.

Initial media reports mistakenly described the firearm as an AR-47. The accident happened while Llamas was attending a United Nations conference in Switzerland.

He later admitted having firearms for close bodyguard and two long firearms, but maintained that he had orderly instructed his aides not to take the guns outside his house while he was abroad.

Malacañang also helped Llamas, a close-ing range buddy of the President, explain why he had to brandish an Armscor rifle, citing the nature of his police job.

Police cleared Llamas of any criminal liability but charged his security escorts with illegal possession of firearms.

'Watch list'

Ricketts expressed hope that public officials like Llamas would set an example to the public, especially since the Philippine government is striving to be stricken off the international "piracy watch list."

"I'm hopeful that my fellow government officials would realize this and set the example themselves. Maybe they don't realize that the consequence values they keep pirated DVDs," he added.

In September 2011, a report by the Washington-based office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) listed the Philippines as one of the top 29 countries teeming with pirated or counterfeit goods, including DVDs, that are capable finished in the movies and commercial centers.

The USTR noted with concern the ineffective enforcement of intellectual property rights in the country. The Philippines was also included on the USTR watch list in 2010.

With reports from Delia Carreon, Norman Bordadora and Inquirer Research

Suddenly, everybody is talking in Filipino

By Christian V. Esguerra

"RESIGNASYON ng obispo yan," Malacañang ang kumbaksan."

"Kunan nasyong kukan."

The public was yesterday given a preview of what it would be like if the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona were to be conducted in Filipino.

The members of the impeachment court abandoned English, the traditional language of Philippine courts, during stretches of yesterday's proceedings, with some of them showing eloquence in the national language.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who also speaks Bicolano, set the tone when he talked about his being the presiding officer and why he was using the Rules of Evidence in the absence of a better alternative as he saw it.

He was responding to a manifestation by Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the lead prosecutor, that the court should be more "liberal" and "flexible" in its rules, noting it is a criminal case.

"Subalit ninyo sa akin bilang mga hukom at hurado na ng hindi ibig gamit ako nagbibigay liberal para sumakto ito para ng kagustuhan nyo (But as a judge, I cannot just give you what you want)," he told his colleagues. "Pero hanggang ngayon, wala pong nakabigayagalit dang gamit ko liberal ang gano ninyong mag, yun ditto sa ating pagdinig (Up to now no one has been able to say how liberal it has tried earlier)."

Enrile went on to discuss his long experience as an "ordinary trial lawyer," using the Filipino translations for such terms as the Rules of Evidence (*reglamento ng ebidensya*) and "to search for the truth" (*maisaliksik ang katotohanan*).

"Akoy po lamyo, alis ay isang ordinaryong... nanunungkulan dito sa korteng ito ng Pilipinas at isang reglamento ng ebidensya na ay... hinggil sa paghahanap ng isang katotohanan (I am a simple, ordinary trial lawyer... serving in this court of the Philippines and a rule of evidence... to search for the truth)," he said.

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Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, who can easily switch from English to Filipino, could not avoid speaking "Taglish" in the course of his manifestations.

"Pag na-capture, pwaaim ang abidensya dito, bayan ang sabi. Kung ma-convict or ma-acquit ka, depende na lang sa merits with all the evidence presented here."

Proud to be senator

Sen. Manuel Villar broke his silence and took the floor to throw his support behind his ally. He, too, spoke mainly in Filipino but had to switch to English for some terms.

"Alam nyo, may mga pagkakataon na di ako sumasang-ayon sa ating panguln ng lenocabo, subalit I have never been as proud to now to be a member of the Senate, and yes my multi-billionaire," he said.

Early in yesterday's proceedings, Enrile made it clear on at least a couple of occasions that points regarding Article 2 and the convictions move to incriminate evidence on Corona's alleged ill-gotten wealth should be sufficiently explained.

"So that the public will know ... so that the public ... will understand," he said.

The sessions were earlier asked to conduct the trial in Filipino and cut the use of legal jargon, to make ordinary Filipinos understand the rules.

Defense too

A number of senators agreed, among them Minority Defense Spokesperson Loren Legarda and Manuel Lapid.

Corona's defense team also commended the proceedings.

"It's OK with me if we hold the trial in Filipino especially if it would help the public better understand the events unfolding in the Senate," defense lawyer Raoul Jimenez told reporters.

"But the public must also understand that you cannot have a trial entirely in Filipino because there are legal terms and Latin phrases that cannot be translated in Filipino," she said. *With a report from Marlon Ramos*

Vizconde gets support of GMA lawyer

By Jerome Aning

NOT ONLY politics, but also the legal profession, makes strange bedfellows.

Lawyer Ferdinand Topacio yesterday supported his client Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's decision to testify at the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Topacio is one of the lawyers of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was barred from traveling abroad by Sandiganbayan last year by the Department of Justice despite an order of the Supreme Court. The lifting of the travel restriction against Arroyo, who is facing charges of electoral sabotage and is under hospital arrest, is the subject of one of the impeachment articles against Corona.

Not by partisanship

"I support his decision and will fully support him to any way as legal counsel and as friend. I don't believe she was forced at by him after lengthy and deep reflections, and without any intervention on my part, or of anyone else, this to order to testify in house not by partisanship, but by his ability... to enhance or enhance reinforce in the judiciary, so that his performance experience regarding the trial involving the death of his entire family may not be experienced by others," Topacio said in a statement.

Victorino claimed he and Corona met days before the release of the Supreme Court decision that acquitted the seven convicted murderers of his wife and two daughters. House prosecutors listed the Vizcondes' alleged meeting as among the offenses Corona allegedly committed under Article 3 of the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice.

Toward genuine reforms

"It is our hope that his testimony will transcend the discussion and purpose of the impeachment proceedings, and will result in measures and acts from all branches of government to institute genuine reforms in our courts to ability erase all forms of influence-peddling on the part of legal practitioners, especially certain big law firms, and promote more honesty, integrity and transparency in the appointments and promotions in the judiciary based on merit and fitness, and not political patronage," he said.

"We hope that those whom PGMA recommended to appointments to such legal positions now be likewise investigated and called to account for their misdeeds, so that the impeachment proceedings may reinforce, rather than erode, the judicial system," Topacio added.

'Movement 188' all praises for JPE

By Sid C. Edrosoingan

A GROUP of lawmakers who supported the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Renato Corona praised Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday for his handling of the impeachment trial.

The members of the newly formed Movement 188 expressed their sentiment in a press conference at the Senate with Sen. Ted Tupas Jr., the lead prosecutor, confirmed the presiding officer for his purported strict implementation of the rules.

Rep. Samuel Dangwa and Enrile had been "brilliant" and even handed in presiding over the trial, allowing the prosecution, the defense and the senator-judges to speak their piece without the fear of the rules.

Dangwa, a Bataan Rep. Ben Evardone said that while he and his peers were "saved" by Enrile-Corona, the lead counsel of the defense tended to be "knowledgeable" as part of the team's strategy.

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SC affirms Sandigan ruling on coco levy: 24% SMC shares goes to gov't

From page A1

lands. Dr. Castro and Penales were members of the Sandiganbayan division that decided the case.

Sequestered

This 24 percent block of San Miguel shares was part of the 27 percent block of shares that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) had sequestered in 1986 on suspicion that they were acquired illegally by ferdinand Marcos' associates using coco levy funds.

Saturday's high court ruling affirmed the May 2006 Sandiganbayan ruling awarding 27 percent of the 47 percent block of SMC shares to the government. (The 27 percent government stake was reduced to about 24 percent after it was diluted with the investment of Japanese brewer Kirin in SMC.)

In a decision last April, the Supreme Court declared as final its decision declaring the remaining 20 percent of the 47 percent sequestered SMC shares claimed by businessman Eduardo Cojuangco as having been legally acquired and not subject to the government's claim that they were ill-gotten as they had been bought with the coco levy funds.

The coco levy funds are monies collected from the coconut levy, a forced tax that the dictator Marcos imposed on the country's coconut farmers from 1973 to the early 1980s. Marcos had appointed his crony Cojuangco, as the administrator of the levy funds. The government claimed that Marcos and Cojuangco and his associates the means to buy control trading firms, oil mills, buy a bank, the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), and shares of stock in SMC.

These acquired assets were placed in the name of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), a holding company owned by an oil mills and controlled by Cojuangco. The assets were held by the UCPB, the CIIF administrator which was under the control of Cojuangco.

In 2003, the Supreme Court declared the coco levy funds as "prima facie" public funds, but left it to the Sandiganbayan to determine the owner of the assets. He, too, spoke mainly in Filipino but had to switch to English for some terms.

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WHAT WENT BEFORE

25 MAY 2006: the Sandiganbayan awarded the 27-percent block of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) shares to the government, which holds it in trust for the country's coconut farmers.

The shares were among the assets sequestered in 1986 by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the agency tasked to recover the ill-gotten wealth of President Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

Marcos imposed a levy on coconut farmers between 1972 and 1982 supposedly to develop the coconut industry.

In 1975, Marcos authorized the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), the agency tasked with develop, ing the coconut industry and refund board included businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, to use the funds to buy a bank "for the benefit of the farmers."

The bank was First United Bank, later renamed United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB). Cojuangco became its putative chief executive officer.

With the PCA and UCPB in their control, Cojuangco and his associates were able to buy firms and mills placed under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), a group of 14 holding companies whose assets included 27 percent of SMC. These assets were held by UCPB, the CIIF administrator.

The PCGG filed cases in the Sandiganbayan against Cojuangco, claiming the CIIF and other assets were acquired using the coco levy funds.

During the Estrada administration, Cojuangco was prosecuted, convicted of the 20 percent block of shares in SMC, allowing him to retain an 18 and-a-half-percent stake.

In December 2003, the Supreme Court declared the coco levy funds as "prima facie" (apparently) public funds," but left the Sandiganbayan to determine the owner of the assets acquired with the funds.

The 27 percent stake was reduced to about 24 percent after it was diluted with the investment of Japanese brewer Kirin in SMC.

In November 2007, the Sandiganbayan junked a civil case seeking to recover the 20 percent block of shares under the names of Cojuangco-owned companies.

The antigraft court said the PCGG had failed to prove that coco levy funds were used to purchase the block of shares.

Various farmers' groups asked the Supreme Court to reverse the decision. Cojuangco sought to stop the intervention of the groups, but the Supreme Court denied his petition and ruled in April 2008 that they had the right to take part in the case as intervenors.

In June 2009, the Office of the Solicitor General asked the Supreme Court to allow the government to sell its 24 percent stake in SMC to avoid losses as a result of the deterioration of the shares of stocks.

In October 2009, the PCGG approved the conversion of the government's 24 percent stake in SMC, amounting to 750 million shares, into voting preferred shares.

The PCGG said the decision was a result of a careful study and was approved by the Supreme Court and the stockholders of the coco levy fund.

It added that with the conversion, the shares would not fall prey to "speculation" and its price would be pegged at P76 each.

Former PCGG chair Jovito Salonga and several others filed a motion for reconsideration in the Supreme Court, questioning the conversion, which they claimed was "disadvantageous" to the government.

In February 2010, the Supreme Court upheld its ruling, which allowed the conversion.

In April, the high court ruled that Cojuangco was the legitimate owner of a fifth of shares in San Miguel Corp.

In May, Salonga and another farmers' group, Magkaisa Tayo Foundation, and the coconut farmers, urged the high tribunal to set aside its ruling. *Inquirer Research*

To identify beneficiaries

President Aquino earlier ordered the creation of a coco levy task force tasked to come up with proposals on how to deal with the coco levy issues.

The task force has been tasked to propose a system that will permanently identify beneficiaries of the coco levy funds and come up with possible options on how to use the proceeds of the coconut farmers' 24-percent share of the SMC.

GMA well, she can be moved to jail or not, says hospital head

From page A1

(Gonzalez) had earlier filed a motion in the Pasay City court hearing the electoral sabotage case against Arroyo seeking an update on her medical condition.

Up to the court

Gonzalez spokesperson Jaime Jimenez said the poll agency believed Arroyo was already well and could be transferred to a regular jail facility.

"We asked the court in connection with the detention of the GMA[C] to request an update on Arroyo's condition, he replied. "Actually, we already knew about it (her recovery) for quite a while. In fact, didn't she request to stand until order of her doctor and walk to the dispo[?] Basically, all indications were that she was getting better. In fact, she was already walking around so she's well and maybe it's no longer necessary that she be held in a hospital."

Jimenez said it would be up to the Pasay City Regional Trial Court where to transfer Arroyo.

The Gonzalez motion was signed by Commissioners Christian Robert Lim, whom Gonzalez Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. had designated to oversee the case, together with law department Director Esmeralda Ladra, division chief Maria Juana Tolosa and other election lawyers.

Save on hospital bill

The Gonzalez camp considering former Senate Pampanga representative, would "save much needed government funds being expended for maintaining her in a hospital suite."

Arroyo was diagnosed with hyperparathyroidism, a disorder in the parathyroid indicated by a bone production of bone lesions. Related to the disease is another bone ailment called cervical spondylosis which severely weakened a portion of her spine.

She spent months in hospitals St. Luke's Medical Center or Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital before undergoing three operations to correct the alignment of her spine and repair a dislodged metal plate which was part of the final treat.

Arroyo has been accused of ordering the rigging of the senatorial race in Maguindanao province in 2007.

Arroyo purportedly ordered Arnpatuan to ensure that all 12 administration senatorial candidates were in his province, which despite its unpredictability was often secured.

'Article 2' row stalls impeachment trial again

From page A1

Reve proceedings," Corona's lawyers said in a six-page motion.

"The testimony of Commissioner Navarro on the DFAs and tax certificates of the Corona children, as well as the government thereof, are therefore irrelevant and immaterial in the issue of whether or not CJ Corona failed to disclose his SALN to the public," they stressed.

New charges

In a 21-page memorandum submitted yesterday, the defense led by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas asked the court to prevent the prosecution from offering as evidence documents and testimonies of properties under Corona's name.

The defense maintained that the prosecution was imposing an entirely new charge into Article 2.

The memorandum said that the prosecutors failed to include the new allegations in Article 2 thereof, the complainants' "lack of any personal knowledge as the source of the facts, the verified complaint of the ultimate facts constituting suppression of graft and corruption and accumulation of ill-gotten wealth."

"Complainants did not base their charges on their personal knowledge, much less on authentic documents, at the time they filed the verified complaint," it said.

"The new updates in their diagnostic and initial use of this formidable court's subpoena power to gather evidence for the very first time to prove their case. Unfortunately, and to [CJ Corona's] extreme prejudice, they have begun their lessons in illegal fishing expedition. This should never be allowed."

Defense lawyers asked the court to "expunge from the record any and all of the evidence presented" by the prosecution regarding his alleged properties. Under Article 2, Corona is suspected and accused of having accumulated ill-gotten wealth, acquiring assets of high values and keeping bank accounts with huge deposits.

Said Corona's camp: "It allow complainants to present evidence on matters not covered by the clear language of Article 2 will violate the constitutional right to due process and to be properly informed of the charges against him."

'More suspicion'

"The use of particular words like 'suspected,' 'reported' and 'accused,' without more, connotes only the allegation of very necessary circumstances and fail to constitute graft and corruption or accumulation of ill-gotten wealth," the defense argued.

To other words, the mere suspicion that the respondent 'amassed and ill-gotten wealth, acquiring assets of high values and keeping bank accounts with huge deposits' is insufficient."

During yesterday's hearing, Tupas argued that the charges of ill-gotten wealth had been "sufficiently alleged" in Article 2. He cited a ruling that "the allegation is sufficient if it contains sufficient notice of the cause of action even if the allegation may be vague or indefinite."

"The allegation in the complaint is sufficient if it informs the respondent of the circumstances against him," he told the court. "Even the ordinary person understands what to be ready to complain."

Enrile gave prosecutors a non-extendible deadline at 10 a.m. today to submit their legal memorandum on the issues arising from Article 2.

Sufficiency test

Tupas also noted that Corona had addressed the issue of his alleged ill-gotten wealth when he "flatly denied" the accusation in his official reply to the articles of impeachment.

"It remains that the Chief Justice maintained that we in Congress, all 188 of us who signed the impeachment complaint, are accusing him of amassing ill-gotten wealth," he said in Filipino. "Using the sufficiency test, it suffices."

Cuevas said Corona should not be faulted for denying the charges even as he maintained that it did not form part of the complaint.

"He said this should not be considered, but we also did not want to appear rude," he said. "It is not the matter, it is not the respondent that determines the existence of an impeachable offense. Why will the right supply the deficiency in the complaint?"

Cuevas also complained about the prosecution's reliance in prior controversy of documents such as SALNs, and hired titles as supposed proof that Corona "had accumulated ill-gotten wealth."

He said such documents "could not have offered as evidence in the impeachment court and might even be 'rejected or excluded' if they would be presented as such.

"For they are hearing on them outside, saying that our client has so many properties," he said in Filipino.

During the hearing, Tupas complained that Enrile was overturning the proceedings "like a criminal trial." Sounding nervous, he pleaded that Enrile be "more liberal ... as the trial will unfold now." He said that in fact hearings last week, "rules of evidence ... that should be supplicantly applied strictly by the court in the proceedings."

"There were at least 30 objections from the defense and the prosecution had to submit to questions at least 20 times," Tupas said.

"I am feeling that the Senate is acting like an ordinary court. Even the prosecutors are no ordinary prosecutors. We came with a resolution from the House of Representatives ... We feel that the entire appreciation of testimonies has unduly restricted in the last hour given the presentation of evidence by the prosecution," he added.

"Are you suggesting we should allow misleading questions," Enrile asked not without sarcasm. "Do you suggest we should allow hearsay evidence ... This is our office argumentative questions ... That is not how we appreciate the question ... That we allow leading questions touching the witness what to say."

Tupas said to to all these questions and pleaded, "Just give us flexibility."

Enrile then chastised Tupas for the unpreparedness of the prosecutors. Enrile said he had warned that the hearings would, after delivering the articles of impeachment on Dec. 11, would have "assembled and marshaled" evidence for each article.

Standard of proof

Appearing for the first time in the hearings as defense representation, Sen. Miriam Santiago challenged the two parties to define the standard of proof that must be observed in deciding the case which was another area of conflict between the defense and prosecution panels.

"In a standard case, the standard is proof beyond reasonable doubt. In a criminal case, the proof must be beyond reasonable doubt. I humbly submit that the standard of proof be overwhelming preponderance of evidence," Santiago said.

Tupas replied that standard of proof should be "substantial evidence" while Cuevas said it must be "beyond reasonable doubt."

In simple terms of libel or malicious mischief, Cuevas said the penalty was less than six months imprisonment.

"What more is an impeachment trial where the penalty is very severe? Removal, if also disqualification from public office is practically a death sentence? It is not temporary. I submit that proof should be beyond reasonable doubt. Why would questions of evidence be lesser than that of a simple case of malicious libel," he added.

Santiago said the "polar difference" in the quantum of both counsel "can only be resolved in caucus."

Enrile later urged the impeachment court to express its observations whether he had indeed been overly strict as presiding officer. He also said he was "open" to surrendering his post "to anyone who wants to replace me."

"I am not siding with anyone in this case. I will not be an instrument of anyone here and I will not move a decision that would not be just," he said. "I will not allow this case to be used. As the presiding officer, I will make sure there will be no unjust or unreasonable nonetheless."

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano expressed confidence in Enrile's performance but watched against suppression of evidence.

"If we suppress evidence, it is the people who will lose. It is criminal cases, at least there is double jeopardy. Yet as in an impeachment trial. All they have to do is file (another impeachment complaint) next year and we'll do it again," Cayetano warned. "So if we convict or we acquit, let it be based on the merits," he added.

In a post-trial press conference, prosecution spokesperson assailed the defense for turning the impeachment trial into a criminal proceeding.

"It's definitely a sad day for us because technically prevails over merit," said Marikina Rep. Romero Quimbo. "The defense will put every roadblock to stop the presentation of evidence."

Defense lawyers assailed the prosecution for resorting to "trade-offs."

"It appears that the prosecutors want to end this after just four days of trial. If that's what they want to do, then why don't we just let the case stand and let him with claims just like what they did to the old times," said Tranquil Salvador III.

"We cannot allow rules without basis, rules that will only create gaps. If we fail to do it once," said Ramon Esmeno. "We cannot let anybody ask any questions and accuse a person without a process and a system." With reports from Marlon Ramos and Cynthia D. Balana

Jinggoy: Trial demonizing Corona like my father

By Christian V. Esguerra

A SENATOR-JUDGE is being haunted by the ghost of an impeachment past.

Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, Senator presidente pro tempore, yesterday noted some eerie similarities between the trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona and that of his father, former President Joseph Estrada, more than a decade ago.

Estrada, who is sitting as a judge in the Corona trial, assailed the prosecution's alleged effort to "demonize" Corona by presenting supposed evidence against him in public.

"The impeachment of the impeachment trial of my father 11 years ago," he said the boy was in a phone interview. "It happened to my father before. They demonized him in media and in public until they got public opinion on their side. It's the same pattern."

Estrada, the younger Estrada sought to clarify that he was not necessarily drawing his support behind the Chief Justice. He said he just wanted to stress that "the decision of senator-judges should be based on the evidence presented in court, not before the bar of public opinion."

Estrada also cited the statements of Corona's defense counsels, who alleged that prosecutors were arguing their case before the media because their evidence could not stand in court.

Rep. Edgardo "Sonny" Angara, a spokesperson for the prosecution, yesterday said it was "still too early in the game" to determine who was getting the upper hand.

Just marked, not presented

Senator Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III clarified reports that documents submitted to the impeachment court last week were just "marked" and not yet "presented as evidence" against Corona.

For defense counsel Tranquil Salvador III noted that the prosecutors were dancing outside the impeachment court that Corona's properties were "understated." The allegations are unfolded in a press conference later Thursday, after copies of Corona's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) were marked in court.

Estrada said the prosecution should not resort to a "fishing expedition" for evidence like what he believed happened in the case of his father.

"I think the main issues done then President Estrada's statement and other ill-gotten wealth were all sorts the same issues before the impeachment trial began. The source and the 'demonization' continued the public that his father was guilty.

"That was not proper. We have a process and it has to be respected," he said.

'Communication strategy'

Defense counsel Ramon Esguerra earlier said that his team was "losing" in terms of public opinion. He said part of it had to do with the prosecution's communication... not legal... strategy.

Salvador agreed with the observation, saying defense lawyers were still "learning" how to properly communicate their position in public.

"You have to give it to the prosecutors, in a sense, they packaged the trial in quite a theatrical manner," he said in a phone interview.

"But to those who understand, they know honestly what's happening inside the courtroom, that we were able to do this and do that. So I'm surprised that when we go outside, the story is different."

Miriam: 'Rumble after terminal boredom'

From page A1

other senator-judges on the fifth day of Corona's trial, where she took the floor early and asked about the respective evidence of the prosecution and the defense.

She said she wanted to expedite the trial in accordance with the principle "justice delayed is justice denied."

Santiago said she would be a passive observer at the trial, which she described as "party unstructured" three hit. But she modified Sen. Nikki Tiglao Jr., the lead prosecutor, for "not presenting exactly—or many witnesses and pieces of documentary evidence his panel was planning to present.

In contrast, the lead defense counsel, retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas, told the impeachment court that he wanted a total of 15 witnesses from top 20 pieces of documentary evidence already marked "to wind up our presentation."

In the end, the impeachment court acted in favor of Santiago's suggestion and told the prosecution and the defense to submit in three days their lists of witnesses and documents to be presented as evidence.

'Technicalities protect justice'

Santiago, sidelined by high blood pressure in the first week of the trial, said she was "overjoyed" to be back in watching her words hearings on TV, much of which was spent marshaling exhibits to be presented as evidence against Corona.

She pointed out that the complexities of the proceedings was being delayed by four TV coverage, and that "the presence of the above-live changes the observed."

"We know, if you shut down all the TV cameras, the proceedings will be limited to one week," she said in a press conference before the trial. "But people want more than TV cameras at least."

Santiago said that while the public was "not thrilled to watch the marking of evidence," it should not "think too badly of technicalities" that "are meant to protect justice."

"But impeachment should not be a mini where triumph will belong to those who rise the most verbosities. Instead to shut-out those verbose rabbits when they are tired," she said, adding that this would help "determine the length of the trial."

Tupas castigated

Santiago provided occasional humor when she asked former Presidential Joint Panel Enrile, the presiding officer, not to call her "lady senator." She said it sounded like "baby senator."

But she was all business, especially in arguing for the independence and supremacy of the impeachment court in the face of appeals to the Supreme Court to halt the proceedings.

"There may be a Supreme Court, but nonetheless, we are the sole and only high court of presidential and vice-presidential impeachment," Santiago said on the floor. "We are not a subject to court. We are the high court of impeachment."

She blew her top when all Tupas could say was that his panel was ready to present at least seven witnesses yesterday.

"That for the totality of the trial period, how many approximately do you intend to present? And don't shake your head at me. You should have known! You should even have a trial brief!" she told Tupas.

Santiago became even more annoyed when Tupas asked to be allowed to confer with his colleagues in the prosecution.

"How many witnesses do you intend to present? You don't even have any idea? You come in court prepared? You don't aware the time of this court?" she said.

Liberal, not technical

Santiago reminded the impeachment court that public opinion was critical to the credibility of Corona's trial and that the rules on the admissibility of evidence should be interpreted "liberally" lest the court be viewed as trying to hide the truth by suppressing evidence.

With the aborted impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada in fast mind, Santiago warned the lawyers sitting as an impeachment court that it should be ready to face a public backlash if the prosecution was barred from further presenting evidence.

Her position was echoed by Tupas who separately asked Enrile for a declaration "forthwith" on the conduct of the proceedings "without sacrificing the rights of the accused to due process." (See related story on Page A13.)

"We do not intend jurisprudence by the Supreme Court on whether I should be liberal, or highly technical, or very strict in applying the Rules of Court," said Santiago, explaining that the "Rules of Court itself ... provides these rules shall be liberally construed so that we can achieve justice that is just, expeditious."

Santiago, of doubt as to the admissibility of evidence, the impeachment court should just "admit the evidence," said Santiago.

"That is what the people ruled after the Estrada impeachment trial," she said.

Second envelope experience

To stress her points, Santiago recalled her experience as a senator-judge in the Estrada trial, in which she witnessed a stern interpretation of the rules, with disastrous consequences.

"The rules technically provide that evidence in court cannot be admitted unless it is relevant to an allegation in the complaint itself. That is the so-called ultimate fact. And that is the so-called allegation. So we were pushing in connection with the notorious second envelope, I voted that we should not open [it] until and after the complaint had been amended," she said.

Santiago, along with 10 other senator-judges, voted against the opening of the controversial envelope purportedly bank records of Estrada at Equitable PCI Bank under the name "Jose Velarde."

The 11-30 vote by the Senate triggered the people power revolt that toppled Estrada, which eventually led to Estrada's ouster in January 2001.

The decision of the 11 senator-judges to bar the opening of the second envelope was interpreted by the public as "feeling" or suppressing evidence, Santiago conceded.

But when the second envelope was eventually opened, there was no "incriminating" evidence against Estrada, she said, adding:

"So the suspicions appear to be unfounded and in fact validated by time. But it was a very painful experience in that [when we were one] in public, the people clamored for instantaneous at to become in their view, we didn't want to open the evidence and naturally, they expected that something was being hidden from them," she said.

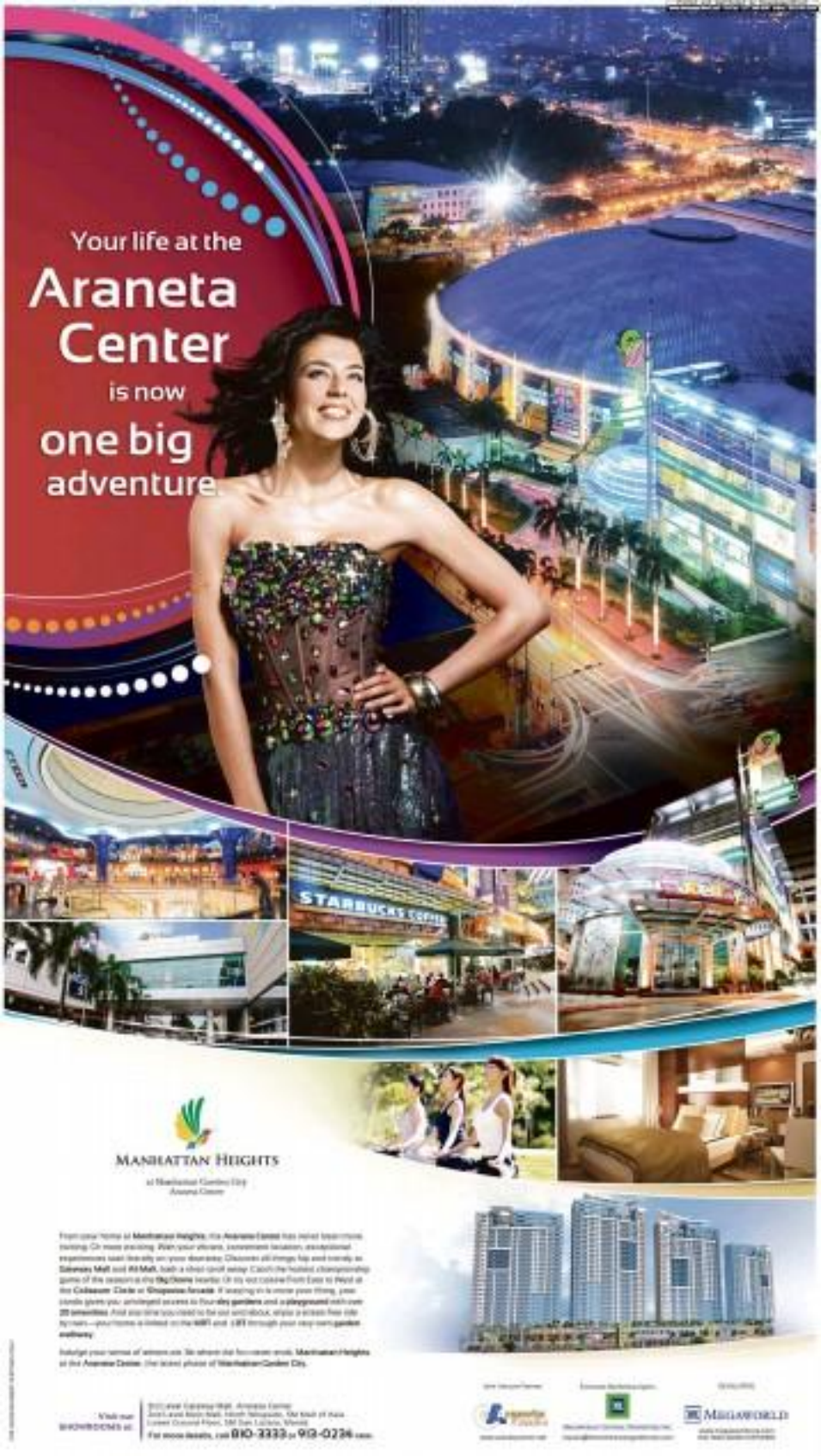
3 days to prepare

Santiago said the "maneuvers" for the Rules of Court was to give the accused due notice of the charges, so that the latter would have time to prepare his rebuttal.

"Since [senator-judges] already know the charges, it only seconds to call to the mind the internal revenue commissioner (Kim Henares) to produce certain income tax returns, I respectfully propose that there is already sufficient notice to the prosecution and the defendant. They should therefore mute himself or motion and prepare for his defense," she said.

She proposed giving Corona three days to prepare, so that "there should be no more argument whether we should open the second envelope."

"To the kind of proceeding which is relevant throughout the anticipation, the more evidence we admit, the more the people will believe that our decisions have been fair. Because they will [say] 'What are you hiding? Why are you saying a lot about it, there is evidence?'



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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

TODAY Jan. 23, is the birth anniversary of the late National Artist for Architecture Pablo Antonio. Born in Manila, he was dubbed the "President's Architect" after he remodeled the houses of President Manuel L. Quezon and Vice President Sergio Osmeña. He constructed around 60 residences, 30 commercial and industrial buildings, 11 theaters, six schools, and 30 other structures throughout his career. He died of a heart attack on June 10, 1974, and was posthumously conferred the National Artist Award for Architecture on March 27, 1990. **Erhalt Bautista, Inquirer Research**

NBI 'footdragging' in Ramgen slay hit

By Miko Morales

LAWYERS of Janelle Manahan, the girlfriend of murder victim Ramgen Bautista who survived the attack that killed her boyfriend last year, have decried the alleged footdragging of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) over the custody of suspect Ryan Pastera who surrendered to authorities on Tuesday.

Atty. Gamaliel Guevarra, Manahan's lead counsel, instigated the furor when he alleged the "vanishing" Pastera until he yielded to NBI Deputy Director Nelson le Arcangel early morning yesterday.

"The NBI should have brought him to the custody of the court. They are only authorized to enforce the warrant of arrest. Why are they withholding Pastera?" he said over the phone.

He surmised that the NBI could be preempting a legal maneuver of Pastera's family which the lawyer said would be seeking from a Dumbauger City court hearing the murder case.

Should the move be based more Ryan on the NBI engine, "it would be highly irregular considering that the NBI does not have a custodial contract to begin with," Guevarra said.

"Besides, if the Pasbauger City Jail was good enough for Jovencio[illegible] Kumoy, Joseph Ramirez, why should it not be good enough for Ryan?" he added.

This does not bode well for the NBI which has been under fire recently following the sacking of Un Seoul, Meg-engged Gerardo, the lawyer said.

The former NBI director allegedly knew about the extortion on Mostyn Ohare, a Japanese businessman who had been in the custody of Pasbauger's NBI agents.

Guevarra asked Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to investigate the "unusual" surrender of a suspect in the NBI, saying that some of its agents could be "scrambling to pull off another Ohare."

"Why is the NBI bending backwards to accommodate Pastera?" Guevara said.

With Ryan's surrender, three other murder suspects in the killing of Ramgen Bautista and the attack on Manahan remain at large—Glaiza Ulala, Steven dela Cruz and Ramgen's sister Maria Rowena, who fled to Turkey last year.

Pastera allegedly served as a middleman between Ulala and Dela Cruz and another Bautista sibling, Ma. Rogelyn or "Gail," and her husband Elmo Pioreya. Pastera was Pioreyano's best man at his wedding.

Ulala and Dela Cruz allegedly hired gunmen Kill Ramgen, who was shot dead inside the family residence in Pasbauger on Oct. 28, 2011.

Manahan, who was also hit side the room during the attack, survived the shooting.

Man who allegedly hired Ramgen's killers surrenders

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WAITING to clear his name in the murder of Ramgen Bautista and the attack on his girlfriend Janelle Manahan, and also to seek protection against threats in his life drove the suspected middleman in the killing to surrender yesterday morning at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Ryan Pastera, who allegedly contracted hired guns for Bautista's killing, and who is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by a Pasbauger City court, surrendered yesterday at around 7 a.m. to NBI Deputy Director for Special Investigation Services and lawyer Edmund Aragay.

Accompanied by his aunt and his lawyer Melinda Saldeña, Pastera refused to grant media interviews as he was escorted from Aragay's office to the NBI Death Investigation Division.

"Maybe he is more comfortable in the custody of the NBI," Aragay said. "He previously sought the bureau's assistance when he unveiled the preliminary investigation in the Pasbauger City Prosecutor's Office."

Pastera's aunt, who declined to reveal her name, told reporters that they only found out about the arrest warrant through the media and that they decided to go to the NBI as her nephew could defend himself against the charges.

The suspect's aunt added that there were suspicious looking persons lurking around her neighbor's house and that he had been receiving threats online.

Aragay said they might present Pastera today in Pasbauger City Regional Trial Court Branch 274 before Judge Fernando Madrona who issued the arrest warrant against him. Ramgen's sister Ma. Ramona, Glaiza Ulala and Steven dela Cruz.

The arrest order was issued during the Jan. 17 arraignment of Bautista's younger brother Ramon Joseph, the alleged mastermind of the killing, and suspected hired guns Michael Ramos and Ney Fernan Tolosa, where they entered a not guilty plea.

On Oct. 18 last year, a masked gunman barged into Bautista's room shooting Manahan in the face before turning the gun on her boyfriend Ramgen, the eldest son of former Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. by Gendys Magsaysay.

Manahan survived the attack but Bautista was killed instantly after sustaining multiple stab wounds and a bullet wound.

Pastera was implicated in the crime after several witnesses claimed he had been soliciting the services of suspected hired guns several weeks before the killing.

The accused has denied any involvement in the killing and said he did not know any of the witnesses, including Ramos and Tolosa, who had claimed he had hired them.

Police still clueless on Makati lot blast

By Nathaniel B. Meleze

POLICE yesterday remained silent as to the official cause and the culprits behind an explosion at a vacant lot in Makati City on Monday that damaged windows in nearby buildings.

Makati Police Chief Supt. Jaime Santos said in a television interview that investigators are still piecing together the fragments recovered from the blast site and in neighboring buildings.

However, he said the explosion could have been planned.

"We could say that the explosion was planned. It could also be that it was a test (for an explosive)," he said.

They were not looking into terrorism as a possible motive, Santos added.

"What is important is that nobody's hurt," he said.

Chief Insp. Jenny Tecson, spokesperson of the Southern Police District (SPD), said the investigation had been turned over to the Special Investigation Task Force Do Ju Cases under the SPD.

The team will be led by Supt. Federico Caoro Jr., who is also the deputy district director for operations of the SPD.

Tecson confirmed that as of Tuesday, investigators were still piecing together the fragments recovered from the blast site and at nearby buildings.

Police earlier hoped that investigators could shed light on the incident by yesterday.

Tecson assured the public that the task force was doing its best to finish the investigation as soon as possible.

No one was hurt in the incident yesterday, but fragments from the improvised explosive device broke several glass windows on the sixth and seventh floors of Ashwin Tech Condominium, which is located beside the lot.

Also damaged were several glass panels on the ground floor of the nearby Cimatex 1 Building.

The rear window of a black Subaru sedan parked beside the vacant lot was also shattered.

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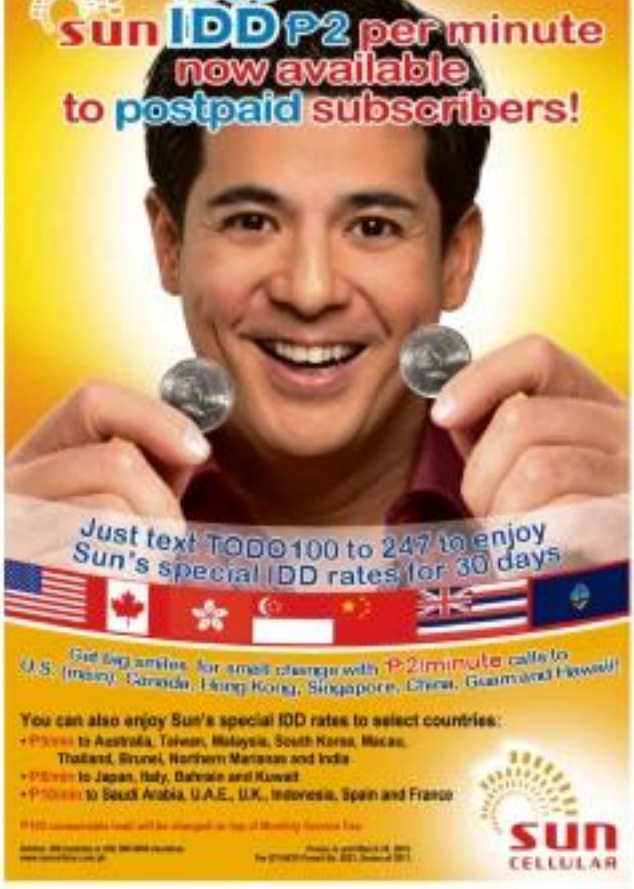

98 of 896 Manila barangays certified drug-free

By Jaymee T. Gamil

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday recognized that 98 out of the 896 barangays in the city are "drug-free."

Lim made the declaration during a certification ceremony held at the city hall. The certification awarding program was spearheaded by the 6th Drug Abuse Council of Manila (Adcom). The declaration was also a first in the city.

Manila Barangay Bureau chief and Adcom executive director Amelyn Ibarra said that although the drug-free barangays represented only 10.9 percent of the city's barangays, the win remained generally "clean."

An initial list furnished to the Inquirer showed only 69 barangays that were certified to be drug-free. Of these, 32 are in District IV, 30 each in Districts I and III, 16 in District V, 8 in District II and 6 in District VI.

Ibarra said the 18 other barangays were also given certification during the program.

In an interview, Adcom operations officer Lorin Margal Jr.59 said that Adcom was convened in August last year following the dismal report by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) that Manila was 100 percent "drug-infested."

The council immediately asked the barangays to submit illegal-drug enforcement in their areas.

Of the 550 that submitted reports, 153 claimed they were drug-free, Only 98 of the 153 passed the screening of the Adcom, Margallo said.

To be validated as drug-free, the school in the subject barangay must not have a single student involved or implicated in drugs, its youth center must validate that no unrest in the area have been recorded to drug-related incidents, the police station commander covering the area must certify that no apprehensions or raids have been conducted in the barangay, the Manila Treatment and Rehabilitation center should certify that they have not treated a drug dependent in the barangay and the barangay should have a drug-free program, among other things, Margallo explained.

The 98 awarded their certificates on Tuesday had remained drug-free as of Jan. 1, 2012, Margallo said.

Woman who allegedly duped former lover of ₱1.7M arrested

By Jeannette I. Andrade

POLICE have arrested in an entrapment operation a 28-year-old woman who allegedly duped her former American lover of some P1.7 million cash supposedly intended for repairs on a house which turned out to be nonexistent.

Manila Police District General Assignment Section (MPD-GAS) operatives nabbed Illegal Gulo of Binayang Homes Subdivision, Imus, Cavite on Monday when she allegedly attempted to make more money from American nurse Sidney Stephenson, 67, owner of a life insurance company based in Japan, to exchange for her returning the more than P1 million cash she had gotten from him.

PO3 Abelardo Aguilar, case investigator, said the American told police that Gulo had allegedly demanded an additional P13,000 cash from Stephenson, which prompted him to seek police assistance when he suspected she was duping him.

Aguilar revealed that they had set up an entrapment operation at around 3 p.m. on Monday against Gulo at a fast food restaurant along Padre Faura Street in Ermita. As soon as she received the marked money from the American nurse, the MPD-GAS operatives announced the bust.

The case investigator said that they based on Stephenson's complaint. Gulo had allegedly asked him to send her cash through money transfer after she proposed a business deal involving the sale of a house which needed repairs.

"They broke up in 2003, but Stephenson still agreed with the proposal and started sending her money for the repairs in January last year because he trusted her," Aguilar explained.

But, he pointed out, the American tourist started to doubt Gulo when she would not give him details of where the house is located.

He also became suspicious when after he had already sent a total of P1.7 million cash, the repairs on the house have not been finished.

When Stephenson informed Gulo about his doubts, the woman allegedly demanded another P13,000 cash from him after which she promised she would give him the whole amount he had given her.

After the entrapment operation, Gulo admitted that there was really no such house when we asked her about it," Aguilar told the Inquirer.

BALANCING ACT
Workers of the Metro Manila Development Authority seem to perform a balancing act as they dismantle an illegal billboard structure along Edsa on Tuesday. ARMANDO BARCELO

'Isla' crime boss killed in shoot-out

TIELMAN DIZON crime kingpin of Isla Puting Bato and former link to Moslem Liberation Front (MILF) commander was killed before dawn yesterday in a shoot-out with Manila police men.

Abdul Basit Muhiera, 43, the former commander of the MILF 105th Command based in Maguindanao province previously arrested in May 2002 for allegedly participating in a plot to conduct bombing attacks in Metro Manila, was killed instantly when he allegedly waylaid others with the heroine.

MPD Makati station 6 commander Supt. Ernesto Borden told the Inquirer that they have been tracking down Malacao for several years. "We (Makati) decided with the Diliman police to arrest him in Isla Puting Bato. We body search Mo. Putting Bato without his blessing," he stressed, adding the suspect reportedly played golf in the area.

Police said the shoot-out occurred after Malacao, armed with a .45 caliber pistol, exchanged fire MPD operatives led a drug buy-bust operation in a house in Isla Puting Bato where four of the suspect's henchmen lived.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Ayala Alabang Village execs eye tougher action vs lease violators

By Miko Morales

TO STOP the proliferation of illegal activities of some people renting houses in the posh Ayala Alabang Village, its homeowners association has proposed that the barangay council enact an ordinance that would penalize owners violating a property's deed of restriction.

Village manager Nannes Fernandez said the Ayala Alabang Village Association sought the help of the barangay to sanction property owners whose houses violate the terms contained in certificates of titles as a way to curb illegal activities.

"Some of these illegal activities are conducted near schools," he said over the phone.

For instance, one house, which has been registered as having only four tenants, is full of people some hours and during one time.

Village authorities later learned the house was being used as a restaurant, Fernandez said.

Asked to present business and health permits from city hall, the tenants could not produce one, he added.

The village association immediately informed the city's business permits office which subsequently issued a cease and desist order against the renters.

Fernandez pointed out that all certificates of titles of properties inside the rich enclave contained very specific details of restrictions to maintain a residential within the village."

For one, each house must be used by a single family only. Some foreigners who rent properly there usually do not follow this policy, he added.

Some register as one family only to allow relatives, usually area or friends to use it, including it into a virtual dormitory, according to Fernandez.

To avoid being detected, some houses build walls over four meters high, another violation in the deed of restriction, he said.

He lamented that the village association could only impose restrictions he described as mere "slaps on the wrist."

"What the association must set up the strict enforcement of the deeds of restriction to maintain order within the village," Fernandez said.

METROBRIEFS

Fire guts Caloocan grocery store

A TWO-STORY long fire before midnight Monday gutted the ground floor of a sari-sari grocery store in Caloocan City, destroying property worth P2 million. The fire, believed to have started from the power source of the Dominga Grocery Store in Sampaloc St. in Barangay Gracia, started at 10:30 p.m. The grocery store is owned by SPO4 Dionisio Domingo and his wife Evelyn. The fire was out at by 12:45 a.m. Tuesday. No one was reported injured or killed in the fire. Alfa Calleja

Chinay found dead inside QC home

A FILIPINO-Chinese was found dead Tuesday morning in his three-story house in Quezon City right after celebrating the Chinese New Year with his family the previous day evening. PO1 Alvin Jocsumday of the Quezon City Police District identified the victim as Jeffrey Go, 38, of Rebar Subdivision, Barangay Kaligayahan, Quezon. Investigators said the victim was found hanging at the staircase at around 7 a.m. by a maid. Police ruled the death a suicide. The victim's swollen left palm for use was evidence after his business had gone bankrupt. Nancy C. Carvajal

Multinational company employee shot dead

ARMED men with hand-held radios shot dead a Filipino employee of a company employee on Tuesday night along Commonwealth Avenue near Litex Road in Barangay Commonwealth, PO1 Alvin Jocsumday of the Quezon City Police District said. Identified the victim as Wenifredo Tiodio, 27, an employee of Sinilwin company and resident of Bo. 210 De Jesus St., Barangay 601, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Gunsmiths said Tiodio was gunned down by men who introduced themselves as barangay police officers. Investigators recovered a total gunshot wound in his abdomen and was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC). Based on witnesses accounts, he was on board a motorcycle without a plate number approached the victim and instantly talked to him before shooting him. Nancy C. Carvajal

E-Pass service available at AYG Toll Plaza

ONE OF THE SERVICES improvement programs that the Cino Group and San Miguel Holdings Corp. (SMHC) have begun to undertake is tolling the Ayala Greenfield Toll Plaza (AYG) e-Pass-enabled. AYG Toll Plaza services the Calamba-Sta. Rosa and section of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx), referred to as Toll Road 1 (TO1). With the e-Pass service now available at AYG Toll Plaza, motorists with e-Pass going to or coming from Sta. Rosa, Batangas can now enjoy faster utility toll at said toll plaza where there are two dedicated e-Pass lanes, one each at the entry and exit toll booths of said

People Management Association of the Philippines

President's Message

Throughout its 56 years of existence, PMAP has grown in ranks and influence. However, it has also reached a plateau, such that there is a need to revitalize organizational growth. As HR professionals, we apply organizational development interventions to enable organizations to enhance performance and optimize their effectiveness.

This is also the intent of the current administration. We shall continue the transformation initiated by the two previous administrations, particularly with respect to the implementation of the 5-year Medium Term Plan, constitutional review and amendment, website enhancement, and other related initiatives.

In the process, we would like to identify how to further enhance PMAP's relevance to its members to achieve two objectives: first, to strengthen PMAP's capability to satisfy its main reason for being, which is providing member services; and second, to model the sound people management practices PMAP is advocating to inspire its members to also become effective and relevant to their respective organizations.

In the end, we would like to see a relevant PMAP as the rallying point of HR and people management practitioners in expressing their passion for learning, applying and enhancing people management practices. We would like to see members actively involved in a dynamic PMAP because of their passion in the profession.

Arthur Luis P. Florentin, FPM
2012 PMAP President

2012 PMAP Theme

The Saga Lives On: The Quest for Greater Relevance

PMAP is turning 56 years old this year. Through the years, PMAP has accumulated a colorful and rich history in the field of personnel, human resource and people management. Among its fold is a pool of experts and gurus in the field.

While PMAP has become the leading association in the field of HR and people management, it still has a lot of potential to grow not only in numbers but also in expertise. To further nurture this growth, PMAP is currently undertaking an organizational transformation.

These are what the current administration wishes to continue – the rich heritage of the association and the on-going transformation. To do so, it shall draw from the current strengths of PMAP to further strengthen it as an association. That is why: "The Saga Lives On."

To drive this transformation, there is a need to discover and enhance PMAP's relevance to its members as professionals in the field. Hence, "The Quest for Greater Relevance."

About PMAP

The People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) is a strictly professional, non-stock, not-for-profit organization of over 1,000 member companies and individual management executives engaged or interested in human resource management (HRM) and industrial relations (IR) work. Founded more than 56 years ago, PMAP continues the tradition of its forefathers in advancing the profession, the science and the art of human resource management.

As a professional association, PMAP helps institutions build an enlightened, competent, socially responsible and influential sector of people managers who can effectively participate in nation-building. PMAP also helps its members become more effective on the job by teaching the human aspect of management via numerous career development forums and training programs.

With twenty-one (21) Chapters throughout the Philippines, PMAP encourages local participation if national affiliation is geographically difficult. In fact, what further enhances PMAP's solid reputation as a national association is the dynamism of its local chapters, proven by the success of their respective programs and projects.

Induction of 2012 PMAP Officers and Board of Directors

January 25, 2012 Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Syria rejects new Arab League plan

BEIRUT—Syria has rejected the Arab League's wide-ranging new plan to end the country's 10-month crisis, saying the League's call for a national unity government in two months is a clear violation of Syrian sovereignty, as violence raged.

Tens of thousands of people poured into the streets in a nationwide rally for regional leaders to assume for 11 residents who were either shot dead by security forces or killed in clashes between army defectors and troops a day earlier, activists said.

An activist group said 23 people were killed across Syria on Monday.

The turmoil in Homs—which saw activists said was 60,000-strong—was under the protection of dozens of army defectors who are in control of the area after regime forces pulled out late Sunday, said Samer al-Dabbagh, a Damascus resident.

The opposition's could not be independently confirmed.

In Syria's north, opposition figure Radwan Habib Hamadi was killed in an ambush by unknown gunmen in the school-dominated Al-Zawiya mountains region, activists said. Hamadi, 46, was a prominent figure in the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad.

Assad blames the uprising that erupted in March on terrorist and armed gangs acting out as a foreign conspiracy to destabilize the country. He regime has retaliated with a brutal crackdown that the UN says has killed more than 5,400 people.

There is growing urgency, however, to find a resolution to a crisis that is pressing international leaders to regime opponents and army defectors who have switched sides have stationed to fight back against government forces.

The Arab League has tried to stem the bloodshed by toning the crackdown, imposing sanctions and sending a team of observers to the country. On Sunday, the League called for a unity government within two months, which would then prepare for parliamentary and presidential elections to be held under Arab and international supervision.

The proposal also provides for Assad to give his vice president full powers to cooperate with the proposed government to enable it to carry out its duties during the transitional period.

The state-run news agency Sana, said on Monday that Damascus considers the plan "**fla-grant interference in its internal affairs**" and the latest turn in an international plot against Syria.

It said the Damascus-based Arab League's mission, if any, Syria could take to resume the Arab League's stance. AP

Iran revives Gulf threats

TEHRAN—Senior Iranian lawmakers have stepped up threats that Islamic Republic warships could block the Persian Gulf's oil tanker traffic after the latest blow by Western leaders seeking to rein in Tehran's nuclear program. A punishing oil embargo by the European Union that sharply raises the economic stakes in Iran's defiance.

The EU decision taken on Monday in Brussels—following the US lead to target Iran's critical oil exports—opened a new front against Iran's leadership. Pressure is fraying closer to the clerical regime from many directions, including intense US lobbying to urge Asian powers to drain Iranian crude, a mounting national currency and a recent staying to what Iran calls a clandestine campaign against its nuclear establishment.

In response, Iranian officials have loaded to use its most powerful cards: The narrow Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf and the route for a fifth of the world's oil. Iran has rattled world markets with repeated warnings it could block the heavily dragged waterway, which could spark a conflict in the Gulf.

Military experts have questioned whether Iran has the naval capabilities to interrupt a blockade. But the US and allies have already said they would take swift action against any threats. moves to choke off the 500 kilometer wide strait—where the American aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, along with British and French warships, entered the Gulf on Sunday without incident.

The British Ministry of Defense said the three nations sought to "underline the unwavering international commitment to maintaining rights of passage under international law." AP

THIS image taken on Sunday night shows a solar flare erupting on the Sun's northwestern hemisphere. It will likely continue through Wednesday and can cause communication problems for airplanes. —

Strongest solar storm since 2005 hitting Earth

WASHINGTON—The sun is bombarding Earth with radiation from the biggest solar storm in more than six years with more to come from the fast-moving eruption.

The solar flare unveiled at about 11 p.m. on Sunday and will hit Earth with more difficult effects at three different times. The biggest issue is radiation, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center in Colorado.

The radiation is mostly a concern for satellite disruptions and astronauts in space. It can cause communications problems for polar-traveling airplanes, said space weather center physicist Doug Biesecker.

Radiation from Sunday's flare arrived at Earth an hour later and will likely continue through Wednesday. Levels are considered strong but other storms have been more severe. There are two higher levels of radiation on NOAA's storm scale—severe and extreme—Biesecker said. Still, this storm is the strongest for radiation since May 2005.

The radiation—in the form of protons—came flying out of the sun at 136 million mph.

"The whole volume of space between here and Jupiter is just filled with protons and you just don't get rid of them like that," Biesecker said. That's why the effects will stick around for a couple days.

Nasa's flight surgeons and cellular experts examined the solar flare's expected effects and decided Sunday that the six astronauts on the International Space Station do not have to do anything to protect themselves from the radiation, spokesperson Rob Navias said.

A solar eruption is followed by a one-two-three punch, said Antti Pulkkinen, a physicist at Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland and Catholic University.

First comes electromagnetic radiation, followed by radiation in the form of protons.

Then, finally the coronal mass ejection—that's the plasma from the sun itself—hits. Usually, that travels at about 1.6 or 3.2 million kph but this storm is particularly speedy and is churning out at four million miles per hour, Biesecker said. AP

Gadhafi loyalists attack Libyan towns

BOUSSAAD—Forces loyal to Libya's late leader Moammar Gadhafi have launched a series of attacks across several cities, killing seven fighters who helped topple the former regime, officials and residents said.

The violence on Monday comes as Libya's new leaders struggle to unite our fingering resistance fiefs pro-Gadhafi fighters have long remained Libya's revolutionaries.

Mahmoud al-Warfalli, a spokesperson for the revolutionary brigade in Bani Walid, said at least four of his fighters were killed in the attacks, the first in the city of the last former regime strongholds to fall in revolutionary command.

He said up to 150 pro-Gadhafi fighters were engaged in the street battle, using rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s. He said they managed to raise the green Libyan flag of Gadhafi's regime as the southern gate of the town.

"These are Gadhafi remnants who tried to take over the city," al-Warfalli said. "They have tried to do this before and take over the municipal government's offices, but thank God we have been able to fight them off."

Hours later, three fighters were killed late Monday by pro-Gadhafi forces in Benghazi, field commander Abdel-Basit Haroun said. The city served as the hub for revolutionary leaders during the civil war.

Abdel Rahman al-Baghdawi, a commander from the new regime in Tripoli, said shooting also took place in several neighborhoods of the capital Monday evening.

The bold attacks on the latest breakdown in securing three months after Gadhafi's capture and killing. AP

British woman sets record for solo Antarctic trek

BUENOS AIRES—British adventurer Felicity Aston became the first woman to ski alone across Antarctica on Monday, hauling two sledges and crossing the last unclaimed mountain-free endless land mass, past the South Pole and onward to the coastal ice shelf, persevering for 50 days in near-total solitude.

She made it to her destination ahead of schedule, using nothing but her own strength to cover 1,744 kilometers from her starting point on the Greenwich Glacier on Nov. 25 to Hercules Inlet.

The most surprising thing about her journey, she said, was how emotional it proved to be, from the moment she was dropped off alone, through every victory and defeat along the way.

"I'm not a particularly sweepy person, and yet suppose suburban born following my tweets can see me bursting into tears," she said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday while waiting for a plane to pick her up.

"When I saw the coastal mountains that marked my end point for the first time, I literally just stopped in my tracks and bawled my eyes out," she added. "60 there days, I thought there was no distance I was going to make it to. time to make that last night of Antarctica, and there I am with three days to spare."

Aston also set another record: the first human to ski solo, across mountains, using only her own muscles. A male-female team earlier skied across Antarctica without lifts or resupplies, but Aston is the first to do this alone.

Aston, 34, grew up in Kent, England, and studied physics and environology. AP

AStON

WORLDBRIEFS

Car bombs kill 11 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Two separate car bombs exploded in a Shiite district in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday, police officials said, killing 11 people as violence surges in Iraq amid an escalating political crisis a month after the US military withdrawal. Tuesday's first attack targeted an early morning gathering of day laborers in Baghdad's Sadr City. Police said eight were killed and another 31 wounded. Minutes later, an explosives-packed car blew up near a police station in the same district, killing three civilians and wounding 26 others, police said. Hospital officials in Baghdad confirmed the death toll. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. AP

Ex-CIA man accused of leaking classified info

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia—An ex-CIA officer who helped track down and capture a top al-Qaida figure was charged on Monday with disclosing classified secrets, including the identities of operatives involved in that covert endeavor, in the latest of a series of US prosecutions of suspected leakers. John Kiriakou, 47, is charged with violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act and the Espionage Act. A federal judge ordered Kiriakou to be released on a $100,000 unsecured bond. Kiriakou declined to comment as he left the courthouse on Monday. According to authorities, Kiriakou divulged to three journalists, including a New York Times reporter, the role of "Officer X," who worked with Kiriakou on the capture of purported al-Qaida financier Abu Zubaydah in Pakistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In a separate accusation, Kiriakou is alleged to have disclosed the identity of a covert operator to an unidentified journalist. AP

Nigerian gets 18 years for credit fraud

MINOT, North Dakota—A man accused of masterminding one of the largest high-tech bank robberies in US history was sentenced to nearly 19 years in prison on Monday. Prosecutors say Idowu Iginla ran the operation into fake debit collection agencies that stole the identities of about 30,000 people. Authorities believe Adekunle Adetiloye organized a scheme to open nearly 600 fraudulent bank accounts and bilk 22 major banks, primarily costing those banks and credit card firms up to $5 million. Assistant US attorney Mark Chase in North Dakota, where the case was handled, said the 40-year-old Nigerian native had an "insatiable hunger for other people's money." Investigators said Adetiloye incorporated two offshore companies in Delaware—Synjan Financial Services and Common Consultant Inc.—that claimed to be debt-collection companies. He gained access to commercial data providers, including large-scale credit Leadstress and DiscloPrint that only allow access to law enforcement, financial services and debt collection companies. AP

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SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE RADIOLOGIA

WHAT'S INSIDE
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■ Federer triumphs on 1000th match /A25

Texters brace for Tigers' wrath

By Mueng B. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT coach Chot Reyes knows, even without saying so, what's in store for his Tropang Texters if they overcome the coming storm.

"We must prepare for Rosenders, eighteen fightback," Reyes said as his words (re-)echoed off the Tigers for the third straight game tonight and, for all practical purposes, put the 38th Philippine Cup championship away.

Game 3 is slated at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, and the Texters are again the solid picks to prevail and move closer to becoming the conference's first repeat champion in 27 years.

No team in the 38th has ever come back from a 0-2 deficit to win a best-of-seven series.

"We've seen this so many times," Reyes said of the 2-0 lead, which he also cited in 2003 while, ironically, still coaching Ginebra, over Powerade, in this same tournament. Talk 'N Text won the next four games to win the title.

"We still need to get two more (victories) and all we've done (with the Game 2 win) is take us other step toward our objective," he said. "We can't relax and must keep our feet on the ground against what I think would be Powerade's mightiest fightback."

A 2-0 lead seems unsurmountable but Reyes still refuses to buy that.

"We don't want to think about anything else but the next 40 minutes," he said. "We don't want to get ahead of ourselves."

Powerade dusted it truly deserves to be so this title series as they took the Texters to the distance in Game 2. In the final minutes, with the game hanging in the balance, Jimmy Alapag hit a triple that finally broke the back of the Tigers.

And coach Bo Perasol is sure that they will have some fight left in them, vowing to go all out and die fighting.

"It really does not matter whether we are 0-2 or 0-3," Perasol said. "As long as we have time (basics, we will keep fighting. I believe we have a special reason why we are here."

Gary David played his heart out and was the scoring dynamo again for the Tigers Wednesday night, shooting 30 points while getting excellent help from a walking-wounded Jeo Lastimosa, who scored 16 points and 10 rebounds in addition to Gabby Espinas.

Castro possesses almost mirror Powerade in first role in the series, but the sheer advantage of the Texters in manpower proved too much to handle for the hard-fighting Tigers.

The Talk 'N Text frontline rearguard in Powerade counterparts in the inside all the boards even after a brilliant game from Doug Kramer, the Tigers' underrated but big-hearted center.

And Castro do need reign there he was favoring his right hamstring, the same injury that kept him out of Game 1 action which resulted in an easy 116-100 Talk 'N Text victory in Cagayan de Oro.

FOREARDED Sean Anthony draws a foul from Talk 'N Text's Jayson Aguilar as he goes for a shot in Monday's Game 2 of the best-of-seven series. ALDUIN SAVAL

2012 PBA Philippine Cup

GAME TODAY
(Smart Araneta Coliseum)
6:45 p.m. – Powerade vs. Talk 'N Text

Congratulations to the PLDT SME Nation-Alabang Country Club Team who emerged as Champions (Founders Division) from the recently concluded 6th Philippine Airlines Ladies Interclub Golf Tournament. Led by their team captain, Joan Morales, other team members include PLDT's own Fiona Gorres, Diana Jang, Rita Heran, Marilyn Reyes, Anna Luisa Morabesa, Marjorie Lapiegos and Vidalyn Torrella.

DIVIDEND Barbosa raises his trophy after ruling the 13th Parsvnath International Grandmaster's Chess Tournament in India.

Barbosa seizes India chess title

Final standings (after rd 11): 1. GM Oliver Barbosa (PHI) 9/11; 2. GM Abhijeet Gupta (IND) 8/11; 3. GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly (IND) 8/11; 4. GM Rauf Mamedov (AZE) 8/11; 5. GM Vladimir Akopian (ARM) 8/11; 6. GM Zhao Zong-yi (CHN) 8/11; 7. GM Parimarjan Negi (IND) 8/11; 8. GM Vladimir Fedoseev (SRB) 8/11; 9. GM Sandipan Chanda (IND) 8/11; 10. GM Vidit Gujrathi (IND) 8/11; 11. GM Dmitry Andreikin (RUS) 8/11; 12. GM Alexei Shirov (ESP) 8/11; 13. GM Ivan Sokolov (NED) 8/11; 14. GM Evgeny Romanov (RUS) 8/11; 15. GM Ehsan Ghaem Maghami (IRI) 8/11; 16. GM Ivan Cheparinov (BUL) 8/11; 17. GM Ruslan Ponomariov (UKR) 8/11; 18. GM Alexander Motylev (RUS) 8/11; 19. GM Pentala Harikrishna (IND) 8/11; 20. GM Vladimir Malakhov (RUS) 8/11; 21. GM Ivan Saric (CRO) 8/11; 22. GM Sergey Fedorchuk (RUS) 8/11; 23. GM Sergey Tiviakov (NED) 8/11; 24. GM Alexander Onischuk (USA) 8/11; 25. GM Baskaran Adhiban (IND) 8/11; 26. GM Ivan Ivanisevic (SRB) 8/11; 27. GM Vladimir Kramnik (RUS) 8/11; 28. 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Big Chill, Freego draw first blood

By Jeanna W. Papa

BIG CHILL and Freego Jeans proved they weren't more lucky the first time.

The Superchargers—the squad they dealt MAIN in their eliminations run—pulled off a repeat over the defending champion Road Warriors with a surprise 83-68 rout in Game 1 yesterday of their PBA D-League Aspirants Cup semifinal series at the FEOB-Flying V Arena.

Similarly forging an upset, the Jeans Makers nipped Cebuana Lhuillier, 97-96, with Rookie Cabrera knocking in a triple at the buzzer in the other semifinal thriller.

"We just stressed out the second side," said Big Chill coach Antonio Tiongson. "We also tried to control MAIN's running game and forced them into a half-court game. We were also glad that their shots weren't falling."

On Thursday, Big Chill and Freego Jeans go for a semifinal sweep in Game 2 of the best-of-three series where they have a shot at strengthening an unlikely championship duel.

Cabrera knocked in the game winner—his lone basket in just three minutes of action—after Terrence Romeo nursed the Green to a 94-94 deadlock with back-to-back triples inside the last 54 seconds.

Lester Alvarez paced the Jeans Makers with 16 points, including two straight triples in the final race moments.

"I wasn't sure if it would go in," said the 6-foot-4 Cabrera. "The play was designed for Lester, but the defense sagged on him."

"It's really a big win because we're the underdogs," said coach Leo Austria, who dealt one of the Game 2 two losses in the eliminations.

A LEAPING CLifford Hodge of NLEX is fouled from behind by Big Chill's Allan Gordon in yesterday's game. JUDE ROY MIRAN

Pinoy Pride: Mexican foe claims edge vs Melindo

By Cedrik F. Tupaz

WHEN JOHN marcel Jean Empor is on tonight's world title fight.

And he believes that that will be fair enough when he battles Filipino Milan Melindo on Saturday in the main event of the Pinoy Pride 18, Philippines vs the World at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City.

Melindo will be making his WBO International mental flyweight title against the knockout artist Empor, who has fought against an overall champions in the 112-pound division.

"I came here to get the title from him (Melindo)," Empor said through an interpreter at a press conference at Boracay's Ole Amigos in Manila. "I'm an opponent fighter and Melindo will be surprised."

Melindo boasts of a perfect 25-0-0 record with nine knockouts, earning him the moniker of "El Matador" for his fine technical skills.

But Empor said that he has the advantage because of his experience fighting the likes of competitors from Caldoron and Colombiana Cuisine Thomas, who defeated Filipino fighter Rodel Mayol in a title fight two years ago.

Empor has both fights and actually won just out of six title bouts.

Reigning WBO Oriental featherweight champion Lorenzo Villanueva battles another Mexican Diego "Spoon" Ledezma in the main supporting bout.

Four more Filipino fighters face foreign foes in the second part of the Pinoy Pride 18.

Mike Ian Montalla fights Wat Kaishou but Yamada, a former WBO Asia-Pacific champ; Merlito Sabillo duels Jerlyon Filoteo of Indonesia at 105 lb; Joseph Yoo Villamor faces Rin Yasuhiro of Korea at 126 lb; and Alvin Aranaga battles Kazuya Inamoto of Japan at 116 lb.

Barrios: Fiba Asia caging could be held at Big Dome

By Jose Navarro

THE MANILA BANG Basketball 4 Philippines wants the Smart Araneta Coliseum to be the venue for the 2013 Fiba Asia Championship if the country wins hosting rights for the world championship qualifier.

SBP executive director Reynaldo "Boyet" Barrios recently sat down with Smart Araneta officials and discussed the infrastructure requirements of the Asian championship slated next year.

There mentioned sites to the 20,000-plus Philippine Arena in Bulacan.

"Ideally, we would like to have it in the Big Dome," said Barrios. "I showed them the kind of new venues that Fiba Asia would be playing and the American consultant they hired assured the interpreters will be world-class."

Adjacent to the Big Dome is the Araneta Gateway Mall and a five-star hotel, which is expected to be operational by next year.

Barrios said the hotel bodes the solution to the players' long stay in the country as well as Fiba officials for two weeks, eliminating transportation concerns for the entire tournament one stage.

Qatar and Lebanon are also bidding to host the tournament.

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Coaching revamp among MVP teams looms

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

SOMETIME ago, I learned from an unimpeachable source within the PLDT/Smart group that a major revamp within the coaching ranks of the Manny V. Pangilinan-owned basketball teams was forthcoming.

There seems immediately come to mind: Tab Tolentino, Siot Tanquingcen, Yeng Guiao trailing over the years.

Ishmail Sumran, Blank, who then "only" had a "three peat" behind him in his five-year tenure (Tim Cone's the first to have the former Crispa coaching deserves a "Sir" to "Tim").

And word never, in turn, since, was to Smart (due to replace Rajko Toroman?

Another of the weekend five's eternal stumbling blocks in Makabalan, Japan, back in 2007, when he was head coach, Reyes, seemed no later grown doomed with personnel redemption.

At that time, Reyes getting a second chance—beginning not later—the talented team under Toroman would perform in the 2011 Fiba Asia championship.

Much to Tab "X Tito, Mister to Siot Elite, Siot who would fill Norman's shoes as coach.

Still anybody want the job, considering that Blank is a tough act to follow? Eventually, I just need of speculating and decided to forget about the purported revamp.

* * *

Meanwhile, to say the watching job as Smart Elite coming up with one of the most coveted among the three positions in the MVP group.

* * *

Yesterday Toroman came back, but only to pick up the stuff he had left behind.

I was told that while the football-head coaching someone with Smart Gilas might not be returned, he could be offered the post of consultant.

Under Toroman, the Philippines finished fourth in the 2011 Fiba Asia championship in Wuhan, China.

Meanwhile, Jong Uichico is ranked with the formation of Smart Gilas II," and an SBP official who requested anonymity "Jong will draft the recruitment and training programs of the team."

That means that someone to whom I previously presumed, Uichico will be the second-in-one to Smart Gilas.

Like Peter Gregorio at Meralco, Boyet will be given an executive position in the Smart group, my source said.

"As the same time, he is being considered as head coach of Gilas," the source said.

"All these changes will happen but only if not find a new coach by January."

* * *

Right now the search is still on for Blank's replacement at Airmen. As I said, it will be difficult to appease many, much less outguess, Blank's "proven" coaching abilities.

My answer said that despite the daunting task, there is a long list of candidates knocking at Stanley's door. After all, the head coach's salary and the lucrative perks MVP provides is said to approximate that of a PBA head coach.

If a new Stanley coach is hired, Blank will be filling in Reyes' head coaching chores at Talk 'N 'Text, as the latter moves to Smart Gilas.

Pasay Int'l Derby fires off Friday

THE INTERNATIONAL weightlifting fever heats up again this Friday as the Pasay International Derby Derby blasts off at the Pasay City Coliseum.

Mayor Pasay FOCing-caliber participants are posing action in the three-day derby sponsored by Dagupan Congress 2000.

The first batch of competitors enter Friday's 3-cycle elimination while the second group gets going on Monday.

All qualifiers will then bid for the title on Sat. 3.

Last year's co-champions—boxing superstar and lawmaker Rep. Manny Pacquiao and Boxing Senator Chiz Escudero—will be among the record leg—former Director of participants.

Defending champion Escudero will be among the record leg—former Director of participants.

All slots filled for 28th Mango Tee at Alabang

WITH all 760 slots filled up as early as November last year and a steady stream of sponsors coming in, the 28th edition of the Mango Golf tournament of the Ayala Alabang Village is poised to become yet another successful chapter in the country's most popular members-guest event.

Scheduled Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, the six-day event has drawn tremendous interest not just from the membership but the corporate sponsors which recognize the amount of brand support the Mango Tee can give back.

As joint presenters, Smart Communications, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Inc., Honda Motors and Yellow Cab are stepping in the bulk of the funds for the tournament prizes, including at least P1 million worth of raffle items.

Most previous cars from Hill-motive Motors Philippines Inc. and Chairman Corporation, an hole-in-one prize will be a major lure for the big field. Other hole-in-one prizes up for grabs include three golf cars and a golf set.

Manolo Mabesa was the lone player to shoot an ace last year when he aced the 12th hole, a par-five that was later a Mitsubishi ASX. The long-time participant, however, died two months after.

The tournament kicks off on Jan. 26 with the ceremonial cut-off and opening cocktails. From the first day onward, there will be a daily cut-line with special raffle prizes to be given away for all those playing in the morning session at 6:30 a.m. and the afternoon session at 12:15.

PMMS Mariners claim NCRAA hoops finals opener

PHILIPPINE Merchant Marine School rode on the heroics of Roger Mally who's push off for 17-76 victory over Cebuano College at the Ateneo de Davao's Jacinto Gymnasium in the Fifth Interstate Capital Region Athletic Association's basketball tournament

Pierce, Bass power injured Celtics past listless Magic

BOSTON—Paul Pierce and Semeer Bridge forward Brandon Bass each scored 15 points to carry the injury-stricken Boston Celtics to an 87-56 win over Orlando on Monday.

Boston was minus starters Ray Allen, Rajon Rondo and three bench players, immediately reducing its rotation.

Dwight Howard led the Magic with 18 points and 14 rebounds. He needs eight points to surpass Hak Anderson as the Magic's all-time leading scorer.

In Dallas, Shawn Marion scored a season-high 29 points as the short-handed Mavericks stretched its home winning streak to seven games with a 93-87 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Marion, who entered with five 3-pointers all season, went 4 of 6 from behind the arc and 11 for 20 from the field.

Top scorer Dirk Nowitzki and key reserve Vince Carter remain out for the defending NBA champion Mavericks (11-7), who returned home from a 2-2 road trip.

Grant Hill scored a season-high 19 points for Phoenix and Marcin Gortat had 19 points and 17 rebounds. Six eight-consecutive double-double Shawn Marion added 14 points for the Suns, who have lost six of eight.

In Chicago, Derrick Rose and Richard Hamilton each scored 22 points to lead the banged-up Bulls to an easy 110-83 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Hamilton's season highs in points and assists (10).

Joakim Noah chipped in with 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Bulls, who evened its last four straight outings.

Carlos Boozer had 14 points and nine rebounds, and Ronnie Brewer (11 points) filled in nicely with Luol Deng sidelined by a sprained left ankle.

Williams had 18 points and 10 assists for New Jersey. Jordan Farmar scored 22, but the Nets were overwhelmed playing their third game in three nights.

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook and James Harden each scored 24 points, and Kevin Durant added 20 as the Thunder topped the Denver Nuggets, 99-79.

The Thunder built a 30-point lead midway through the second quarter and Denver got no closer than 17 after the opening period.

Nick Collison sprained his left ankle and didn't play after halftime.

Rookie guard Brandon Knight led Detroit with 15 points. Rodney Stuckey and Greg Monroe added 12 apiece.

(AMS RESULTS: Nets 102, Wizards 83; Spurs 104, Hornets 102; Rockets 103, Timberwolves 81; Hawks 92, Bucks 82; Jazz Blazers 104, Kings 88; Lakers 96, Warriors 89)

Perpetual tests EAC in 'NC' volley Final Four

By Cedrolf P. Rapus

UNDEFEATED Perpetual Help braces for a tough duel against Emilio Aguinaldo College when the Final Four of the NCAA season's volleyball tournament rolls off at the Mercy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

The Lady Altas needed five sets to dispose of the Lady Generals in the eliminations round and Perpetual coach Mike Pothoff expects another dogfight as the 10 a.m. clash.

"We need her more, physical in the second-ish because all of the teams want to beat us," Pothoff said in Filipino.

The Lady Generals actually pose the biggest threat to the Lady Altas, who narrowly won their Dec. 18 match, 29-30, 25-17, 26-25, 22-25, 25-12.

In the other semifinals match, defending champion San Sebastian meets Letran at 3 p.m. in a rematch of last year's finals.

The Lady Stags are rebuilding with only a few players remaining from last year's second-seed title run. But the search of coach Roger Gonzaga had enough firepower to barge into the semifinals with a 6-1 card similar to Letran and EAC.

Gonzaga, who entered the NC in the title the past six years, is actually hoping to continue his run of Top 2 finishes since the mid-1980s.

ROGER Federer of Switzerland fired a serve to Juan Martin del Potro during their quarterfinal showdown. AFP

Federer triumphs on 1000th match

MELBOURNE, Australia—Roger Federer's 1,000th match was similar to many in his career—dominating from the start, some incredible shots, and run, victory.

Four-time champion Federer advanced to his ninth straight Australian Open semifinal with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 win Tuesday over Juan Martin del Potro, the same who beat him for the US Open title in 2009.

"It's a lot of matches and a lot of wins," Federer said. "Either I have been around for a long time or I'm extremely fit. You decide which way you want to describe it. But I'm happy."

In the semifinals, Federer will play the winner of the Tuesday's other quarterfinal between second-seeded Rafael Nadal and Tomas Berdych, a rematch of their 2010 Wimbledon final won by Nadal.

Defending champion Kim Clijsters is into the semifinals. She and No. 3 seed Victoria Azarenka stayed in contention for the women's title when they won their quarterfinal matches Tuesday. Clijsters' 6-3, 7-5 (8) win over No. 7 Caroline Wozniacki ensured that Wozniacki would lose the top ranking she has held for most of the last 15 months.

Azarenka beat Agnieszka Radwanska 6-7 (8), 6-0, 6-2 and will play Clijsters, who is still trying to overcome a left ankle injury in the semifinals. On Wednesday Maria Sharapova plays Ekaterina Makarova, who beat five-time champion Serena Williams in the fourth round, and No. 2 Petra Kvitova takes on unseeded Sara Errani of Italy.

Nadal's career, including a record 16 Grand Slam singles victories, can be enhanced even more if he wins the title this year in Melbourne first. With a 232-34 record in Grand Slam singles matches, he'd overtake Jimmy Connors' mark of 233 wins with victories in the semifinals and Sunday's final.

Clijsters has survived continual comments since Sunday, when she injured her left ankle and had to raise four match points to her fourth-round win over Li Na, a rematch of the 2011 final. Azarenka is one of three women who could finish at No. 1 in Melbourne—Sharapova and Kvitova are the others. AP

Juvic carries weight of No. 1 ranking into TCC

By Mayang R. Castillo

A LOT is now expected from Juvic Pagunsan.

Usually starting out each year as one of the Philippines' top pros, Pagunsan will head into the country's first big event, the Country Club Invitational, as—as Asia's No. 1 and will be one of the players to watch in the P4.5 million event.

With rulers in the Japanese JGA and the British Open lined up this year, Pagunsan is expected to come out with his A-Game not only because of the huge champion's purse but to also stamp his class in the elite field.

Pagunsan will also have to deal with the challenge of the wind-swept layout in Laguna, the way he did in 2006 and 2008 and become the event's first three-time winner.

Pagunsan will be coming off a great year, one which saw him win four events in the local ICTSI Tour before finishing second to Fernando Gonzalez-Carmona of Spain in the Barclay's Open in Singapore to win the Asian Tour's Order of Merit title.

Angelo Que, meanwhile, is shooting to win the event for the third straight year. Only Que and Pagunsan have won the event more than once.

And Pagunsan will be coming into the event as prepared as he can be.

"I've been working on my game and physical conditioning," Pagunsan said. "Competition is always tough in the TCC and for once, I will be going all out to win for the third time. This event is always close to my heart."

CDO squad, St. John go 3-0

BACOLOD CITY—Second Heart of Jesus Montessori contained International School for Better Beginnings, 49-40, and St. John Institute defeated St. Clare, 83-71, Tuesday to shared the lead with pace-best 3-0 cards in the 2012 Strandcorp Basketball ng Pilipinas National under-16 at the Masters College tournament gym.

The Cagayan de Oro-based Sacred Heart and Bacolod's St. John are the only unbeaten squads in the 12-team inaugural edition of the under-16 league grassroots program that the PBA hopes will discover young talents.

University of Visayas demolished Holy Child School, 81-60, at 8:15 p.m and St. Bridget College shamed host University of Bacolod, 73-60, as the UB gym.

La Union College of Nursing and Arts handed Alloy's St. Agnes Academy its third successive defeat, 113-57 and St. Louis (Bolinao) Negros-based Universidad de Sta. Isabel, 52-38.

The win pushed UV and SHCJMI to 2-1 records, ahead of SBB and Holy Child, which both lost 1-2 cards in the tournament supported by MVP Sports Foundation, Energen Nutritious Milk and Cereal Drink, Philtex Mining, Summit and Mobiox.

Trailing 46-50 entering the final period, St. Bridget outscored UB to the finish on its clutch its first win in three appearances and handed the host team its third straight defeat.

St. Bridget surpassed the Baguio boys sparked by the deadly treble of Ronnie Zyron Rosias, Ralph David Ramos and six-foot John Pedo Cuteclang.

Ramos scored 14 of his game-high 21 points in that period, with Cuteclang adding six and Rosias seven more.

NorthStar shift in nearby Bangsal with five games on tap at the Cordillera Career Development College court and two matches at Eastern College Inc. gym.

St. Bridget and USB clash in the 9 a.m. opener, followed by the girls' encounter between St. Louis and wireless JUV at 10 a.m. St. Clare tangles St. Claire Isabela (12CSSH) at 11:30 a.m. and UBT faces Sacred Heart at 1:30 p.m. St. Clare faces University of St. Louis at 3 p.m.

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San Beda College High School 1980
in cooperation w/ the
San Beda College Alumni Association
For details contact: Wilma Abellanosa 735-5666

Adamson grabs FCBL top spot

ADAMSON held off Ateneo, 66-57, to complete a seven-game sweep of the eliminations round in the FCBL Dickies Cup Saturday at the Philippine Bushfarmers gym in Quezon City.

Like in their spine-tingling 67-66 win over University of Santo Tomas on Jan. 21, the Lady Falcons fanned on the rainsh shooting Ateneo while notch 10 of their season-high 15 points in the payoff period to prevail.

Falcons also tied their season and the same number of rebounds and steals to win the Dickies Undercoats Player of the Game award for the second straight week in the event presented by Dickies.

Adamson will thus earn the quarterfinals opposing a twice-to-beat advantage the against Ateneo, which entered up dead last with a 1-6 mark.

Reigning UAAP champion FEU, Lyceum and La Salle also clinched twice-to-beat privileges for finishing second, third and fourth, respectively, in the event backed by Atsuro, Wing Sunsil, Home Depot and Powerhouse.

Condura marathon holds midnight race

AROUND 11,000 runners are expected to participate in the Condura Skyway Marathon 2012: Run for the Mangroves—the Philippines' first ever midnight marathon—on this 5 beginning and ending at Filinvest in Alabang.

Run also marks—20, 10, 10K, 10K and 2.5K runs—will be held in this year's Condura Skyway Marathon, which is committed to support the group's mangrove reforestation project in Bataan Bay, Zambonga.

"We are proud to celebrate our 50th anniversary as we run through the cities in one go with all race categories going up the Skyway for the first time," Tee Corazon, founder and organizer of the Condura Skyway Marathon said during yesterday's PSA Forum.

Registration is ongoing at Rockwa branches in Starbucks Global City, Rizal Center in Pasig and Festival Supermall in Alabang. Deadline is on Jan. 29.

For online listing, log on to www.conduraskywaymarathon.com.

This event is also made possible by:
Duty Free Philippines San Miguel Corporation SMART Communications Ortigas & Company Philippine Daily Inquirer Inquirer Golf Circulo Verde Magic 89.9 103.5 MAX FM Wave 89.1 99.5 RT Jam 88.3 Eagleoc Inc. Davies Paints Asia Brewery Mister Donut Goody Sunnex Chivas Regal Johnnie Walker Camus X.O. Int'l Excellent Golfing Partners, Corporation Vegie Mix Perry's Group SPES Construction Cong. Jack Duavit Avent JVC Phils Greenline ONYX Manic Museum J Corton Marketing Grey Goose Enriquez Security Services, Inc. INKY DINKY Digital Printing Sureshot Photo Cong. Amado Bagatsing Concept 1 NSDDSSI Diamond Motors ALVEO Land Crestlink/Calloway Polecats The Address at Wack Wack MERALCO Delta Air FREEGO St. Clair Wilson Ever Bilena Unitab Toyota Balintawak Gree Aircon FURY Eyewear/OTTICA Revicon Max Enervon Alaxan Excellence Appliance General Electric Hanobe Asian Cuisine

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

IMF cuts growth forecast for PH, Asean

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Jan. 20, 2013
43.150

STOCK MARKET
Jan. 21, 2013
33.55

(PSEi/DTI) (Two-week market report on Page B2)

Stocks end lower on profit-taking

LOCAL STOCKS pulled back from all-time highs yesterday as investors pocketed gains while many regional players were still on a holiday break after the Lunar year turnover.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index lost 33.92 points or 0.71 percent to close at 4,711.33 as heavy selling sent all counters to negative territory.

"Most other parts of the region are still on vacation so foreign buying [of index stocks] is not as strong. This may last for a few days. Besides, it's really time to take a breather after so many days of run-up," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Pizarro.

Value turnover was relatively

(STORY B1)

'Mild recession' in Europe to hit exports, investments

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has cut its growth projection even for the better-performing Asean region, which includes the Philippines, citing a mild recession likely to happen in Europe this year that may dampen growth of other areas.

The IMF now sees the Asean 5—composed of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam—posting an average growth of 5.2 this year and 5.6 percent in 2014 on the back of the prolonged crisis in the euro zone. In its previous forecast, the IMF said the Asean 5 would grow 5.6 and 5.8 percent this year and next.

"The global recovery is threatened by intensifying strains in the euro area and fragilities elsewhere. Financial conditions have deteriorated, growth prospects have thinned, and downside risks have escalated," the IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook released yesterday.

Despite the cut in the Asean growth forecast, it is still much better compared with the projections for advanced economies, some of which went even to negative growth rates.

The cut in the growth forecast for the Asean came on the back of a lowering in the growth projection for the euro zone and, consequently, the world economy.

The IMF now sees the Euro zone contracting by 0.25 percent this year and growing by 1.0 percent next year. These compared with the previous estimates of a 2.1-percent growth for this year and 1.5-percent expansion for 2013.

The multilateral institution said one factor behind the debt crisis in the euro zone was the huge loss of its banking sector that led to very high borrowing costs for governments in the region.

"If uncertainty about banking sector losses and fiscal sustainability widened sovereign spreads for many euro area countries, which reached highs not seen since the launch of the European and Monetary Union," the IMF said in the report.

The financial and economic turmoil in the euro zone is seen to affect Asian emerging markets such as the Philippines through several channels led by export. Sale of goods to Europe by exporting countries is seen to remain anemic.

(SEE B4)

Gov't to bid out MRT 3 contract

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has decided to conduct an open competitive bidding for the contract to operate and develop the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) line no. three.

Transportation Secretary Manuel "Manny" Mamo II said that privatizing the train line through a bidding, instead of entertaining the unsolicited proposals from San Miguel Corp. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), would ensure that the government would get the best deal possible.

"We will not choose winners or losers," said Mamo, referring to the San Miguel and MPIC proposals. Both firms earlier submitted separate offers to pour in billions of pesos to improve the MRT line in exchange for the right to operate and collect revenues from the system.

"The competition between private sector players will be through competitive bidding," Mamo said.

If the government had chosen to accept either of the unsolicited bids, what proposal would have to undergo a competitive "Swiss" challenge wherein other bidders would be given a chance to submit better proposals.

If other bidders are able to submit better offers, the first company would be given the chance to match it to win the contract.

Under its proposal, MPIC offered to invest an

(SEE B4)

PAL clarifies 'for sale' report

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) has clarified reports quoting its chair, tycoon Lucio Tan, hinting at the entry of new shareholders that could spell a change in control of the scarred flag carrier.

The company said Tan's statements, reported by various newspapers during the weekend, might have been taken out of context. Tan was reported to have said that PAL was for sale "at the right price."

"Your chairman's statement always on P17.23 billion loss to the even sale of P7.08 billion worth of Petron shares unloaded on by the company's retirement fund and the conversion of Digitel shares acquired by PLDT after a tender offer to minority shareholders. There was P5.04 billion in net foreign buying largely due to the sale of the shares of Petron, which is not part of the PSEi basket, to overseas buyers.

"Overall, we are excited about the market's prospects for 2013, which is supported by the Philippines' growth story and the recovery staged by Western markets," PSE president and chief executive Hans B. Sicat said.

There were 73 advances,

(STORY B1)

JFC buys into Asia food group

Philippine giant scales up presence in the region

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. has consummated a deal to buy into a regional food group that operates scores of Highlands Coffee, Hard Rock Cafe outlets and Pho24 restaurants, thus scaling up its presence across Asia.

JFC, through wholly owned Jollibee Worldwide Pte. Ltd., announced the completion of its acquisition of 50 percent of the business of SuperFoods Group, consisting of a 49 percent stake in Vietnam-based SF Vung Tau Joint Stock Co. and a 100 percent share in Hong Kong-based Blue Sky Holding Ltd.

This buy-in deal will run JFC $25 million for the 50 percent stake in SuperFoods alone.

But part of the deal is to extend a $55-million loan to JFC's partner SF, or Thai International Joint Stock Co. (VTI) through their joint venture in SuperFoods. JFC has also advanced $5 million to the SuperFoods group.

The SuperFoods group, which has $200 million in annual sales, operates 56 Highlands Coffee stores in Vietnam, 86 Pho24 chain of Vietnamese restaurants (up 40 stores in Vietnam, 11 in Indonesia, four in Hong Kong, three in Japan, one in Cambodia and two in the Philippines. It likewise has Hard Rock Cafe-branded stores in Macau, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

Highlands Coffee serves Vietnamese coffee and light meals in 54 coffee shops in Vietnam. It also sells packaged coffee through retail outlets in the Philippines, the franchising rights for operating Highlands Coffee were granted to JF Ventures Inc. which operates the largest chain of internet cafés in the Philippines with 116 outlets under the brand Streamx.

JFC is set to use the equity method in accounting for its 50 percent interest in the SuperFoods in compliance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards and the International Financial Reporting Standards. Under this method, the revenues, other profit and loss items and cash flows generated and the balances sheet held by the SuperFoods will not be reflected in each line item of JFC's consolidated financial statements. Instead, JFC's investments, loans and advances to and its 50-percent share in the net results of operations will be reflected in its consolidated balance sheet.

The dominant player in the Philippine quick-service restaurant industry, JFC is increasingly turning to the overseas market for future growth. Its offshore business which now accounts for about a fifth of worldwide sales, is targeted to grow as large as its domestic operations by 2017. As of end-2014, it had a total of 2,003 restaurants in the Philippines but including overseas stores, it has 2,477 restaurants globally.

MVP consolidates hold in Meralco

THE FIRST Pacific group led by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan cornerstoned control of Manila Electric Co. by acquiring an additional 2.66 percent stake in the power distributor from the Lopez group for P8.05-billion.

Pangilinan's group through local holding firm Beacon Asset Holdings will mull a deal to buy 20-million additional common shares in Meralco at a cash price of P395 per share—or close to record highs—thus raising its stake in the utility to 49.02 percent from 45.45 percent.

The transaction, which is expected to be completed this coming Feb. 1, allowed the Lopezes to unlock more value out of their remaining shares in the country's largest power distributor while retaining representation in board.

Beacon is a joint venture holding firm between First Pacific-led infrastructure holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. subsidiary PLDT Communications and Energy Ventures Inc. (PCEV), formerly known as Philex Telephone Corp.

MPIC and PCEV told the Philippine Stock Exchange on Tuesday that this acquisition represented "an opportunity to further consolidate Beacon's investment to a sector that the Beacon group believes will have significant growth as the Philippine economy grows."

"Meralco is now focused on growing its current business and is investing in new areas such as power generation, aimed at enhancing shareholder value and providing efficient and upgraded services for the public," the joint disclosure said.

Beacon's funding for this acquisition, like other recent purchases of shares in Meralco, will be provided via an equity injection of P5.4-billion in which MPIC and PCEV will subscribe equally and a P5 billion corporate notes facility arranged for Beacon by First Metro Investment Corp. and PNB Capital and Investment Corp.

After the completion of the transaction, the Lopez group through First Philippine Holdings, together with subsidiary First Philippine Utilities Corp., will continue to own about 9.9 percent of Meralco. Under certain conditions, the Lopezes will also retain a board seat in Meralco after consummation of the sale.

Simultaneous with the execution of the purchase agreement, Beacon, MPIC, PCEV and PLDT executed further amendments to cooperation agreements with the Lopez group that will allow the latter to retain a board seat in Meralco.

As the First Pacific and Lopez groups vote as a bloc in Meralco, Pangilinan's group effectively controls 51.02 percent of voting rights in Meralco since the Lopez group, San Miguel Corp. and its allies will own a significant bloc of at least 34 percent. Doris C. Dumlao

IMF cuts growth

From page B1

this year as a result of the crisis.

Other channels through which the eurozone woes could be transmitted to emerging markets included investments and investments. Before being a major export market, Europe is also home to many corporate investors and investors for significant amounts of foreign investments in emerging markets like the Philippines.

Despite the deterioration in its outlook for the world economy, the IMF said the forecasts did not point to a global economic contraction.

"The updated WEO [World Economic Outlook] projections are global activity decelerating but not collapsing," the IMF said.

Stocks end lower

From page B1

which were overshadowed by 89 decliners, while 58 stocks were unchanged.

The index was weighed down by profit-taking on PLDT, Metrobank, ALI, BPI, Petron, Ayala, ICTSI, Philex and Aboitiz Equity Ventures. Lopezes JI and Nickel Asia were also in the red.

Banking stocks SECU and BDO bucked early the PSEi's decline. Lopezes A. Lopez rally to local (investors) also gained ground. First Holdings and GMA Philippine depositary receipts also traded higher on heavy volume on mergers and acquisition plays.

First Holdings unlocked more value out of its remaining interest in Meralco by selling 2.66 percent to the First Pacific group while keeping one board seat, even if its interest has gone down to 3.9 percent. Its shares went up by 1.9 percent to P63.20. Doris C. Dumlao

Gov't to bid MRT

From page B1

additional $300 million for the purchase of new trains and expansion of stations.

MRT3 offer due to reduce the infusion of fresh capital into MRT 3, although the company has not disclosed details of its proposal.

The Aquino administration, however, has expressed its preference for projects related by the government.

The government, however, faces a possible legal roadblock due to the MRT line's current ownership situation.

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Northrail's iPads

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

IF THERE was ever a list of government corporations that have the biggest amount of money without anything to show for, North Luzon Railways Corp. (Northrail) would be on top.

He means no offense but look at the facts: It's no secret that work on its project, the construction of a train line from Manila to Pampanga, has been suspended due to findings of anomalous provisions in the contract with the Chinese government.

The suspension of work was of little consequence, really. They've been building the train line for about 10 decades, and not more than a few kilometers have been put up.

With work on the main project suspended, Northrail's management early this month tried to bid out a P2.2 million lot—a relatively small amount—for the rehabilitation of the company's corporate office in Balintawak.

The deadline for the submission of bids was supposed to be this month, but unfortunately, Northrail was interrupted in setting order by a local court that effectively stopped the process. The order stemmed from a case filed by a bidder that participated for the first time the rehabilitation scandal was put on the auction block (that bidding failed, of course).

Northrail management provided less details on the case, except for a notice on its website that said the opening of bids would be postponed until Jan. 27.

With the rehab on their building also now on hold, what are Northrail executives to do? Late last year, documents showed that the firm was company personnel served "tablet computers" with specs similar (read: identical) to the Apple iPad 2.

The seven units—two 64-GB and five 16-GB models...were bought for P265,000. The price included "installation fee made of the devices, that hope, of course, is that these are being used to get more work done. Paolo G. Montecillo

Taipan tangles with tourism

NEXT month, billionaire real estate developer Andrew L. Tan will join the list of Filipino businessmen he likes the late Ramon Del Rosario Jr. and Central Bank Governor Jose B. Fernandez Jr. with Century of Excellence as the Asian Institute of Management turned 50 this year.

Tan's Megaworld Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of Megaworld Corp., created by decree by two property research firms as the country's leading developer of condominium and office developers...is donating a total of P100 million to launch the ABS Dr. Andrew L. Tan Center for Studies on Tourism (CST).

The new center "international to contribute to the development of Philippine tourism."

Tan is considered the "best person for tourism" as he is at the helm of resorts World Manila, the country's first integrated tourism estate, and the upcoming Resorts World Sentosa City in Entertainment City Manila. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

The talented Manny D.

I'LL entertain just keep on coming for Cebu-based business man Manny Dumpit.

Last November, his Manny D.

Where brought home eight more awards from the Hong Kong International Wine and Spirit Competition. The Swedish won in the Steel Pairing Category with poking duck and braised abalone, while The Discipulos Syrah also won silver paired with peking duck and lamb chicken.

The Discipulos Syrah is now being served onboard Cathay Pacific Airways as well as in the Philippine Airlines business class international flights together with the Discipulos Blanc.

In addition, all wines are now available for redemption from AsiaMiles, one of the world's largest redemption programs, to more than 4 million AsiaMiles members in Hong Kong and about 200,000 members in the Philippines.

Manny D. Wines has garnered 49 awards from seven countries in professionally blind-tasted competitions and are now sold in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Geneva, Zurich, Lucerne, Basel, Bern, Liechtenstein, Shanghai, Beijing and greater China, and of course Manila and Cebu. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

'Toledo stuff'

AFTER? something he (for particular conglomerate for some months, this former high-ranking government official looks like he's ready to jump into the post-earth fuel chase.

We're talking about none other than lawyer Mike Toledo who, according to our sources, is set to join Philex Mining Corp. as head of its corporate affairs division.

Unbeknown to many (he former Palace spokesperson and press secretary has been making as a consultant for the PLDT group of tycoon Manny Pangilinan in recent months (during which he also underwent the requisite "pakikisalamuha" period).

Well, it looks like the worries from both parties was that a more formal working relationship is a good fit, resulting in Toledo's selection as the man to run the critical communications unit of the country's biggest mining firm.

Toledo, of course, has a wealth of experience that makes him well suited to be the public face of a corporation in a highly charged industry having served on the boards of various corporations, private and public as well as in the executive and legislative branches of government, as well as being an Ateneo lawyer on the to his career.

But he has his work in Philex cut out for him, with the mining industry facing strong headwinds in the form of pro-environment critics (both the authentic and the fake ones, just hoping to cash in on the trend).

To be successful and effective amid the noise and disinformation against the industry, he will have to rely on nerves of "Toledo steel." Jimelo L. Lucas

From Ferrari to Terra Pah

WHAT'S in Modena, Italy? Well, balsamic vinegar, makers and the home of world renowned Ferrari. And there's Terra Pah.

"We already recruit in Modena, so we have Ferrari engineers developing our machines," Powers said.

Considering that Terra Pah bears rolls in about 337 degrees Celsius and then takes just 3 seconds to seal it down well enough to pack into a sterile canister, a probably does need engineers who are used to the last liter. Jhesa T. Globenterio

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PAL clarifies 'for sale'

From page B1

to sell PAL, if any is made, was not untilthen) such plans.

"We didn't say when he wants to sell, how much of his shares he will let go, to whom it will be sold or what the 'right price' is. Clearly, it's not simply about what he said, but what he didn't say," Dr. Guzman said.

They were reacting to rumors that he and other members of his family were in negotiations with two groups—the visiting conglomerate San Miguel Corp. and its corporate rival, the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Tan, one of the country's richest men, was quoted by local and Hong Kong publications as saying he was willing to sell his majority stake in the flagship carrier for the right price.

Both Pangilinan and San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang were his "friends." But Dr. Guzman said this statement was erroneously interpreted to mean that Tan was in negotiations with either group.

"It's true for media and other parties to draw conclusions from Mr. Tan's one-line remark, but we believe that talks of any sale are speculative at best," Dr. Guzman said.

San Miguel has confirmed that it had been invited by PAL to "participate" in the airline's expansion and refinancing program. The Pangilinan group, however, has been mum on the matter. Paolo G. Montecillo

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
LEYTE BIOGAS CORPORATION UP Mindanaoense Phase, Brgy. Sibacan, Brgy. Kapatagan, Pulang City	Miao Yin Australian	Finance Officer
KIT HI USA, INC. 2/F Bldg. D, One Campus Place, E. Rod Ave., Bonifacio Hill, Cubayao, The Fort, Taguig City	Hiroshi Kudoo Japanese	Director - Human Resources
SC RESERVATIONS (PHILIPPINES), INC. Unit 1, Glen Floors, Tower 2, PCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Pascal Dominique Noel French	Fulfillment Executive - Canvas
SC RESERVATIONS (PHILIPPINES), INC. Unit 1, Glen Floors, Tower 2, PCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Gabor Szrantz Hunk Tomi Spanish	Fulfillment Executive - Spanish
SHELLS ECONALCO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 2 & 3/F GT Tower International cor. Gonzales Sts., Ayala, Manila	Peter William Stubbs British	Finance Supervisor
NISSAN MANILA CO. LTD. INC. 2/F Commercial Plaza, 170 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Makiko Chino Japanese	Business Development Manager
CANON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 2/F Technic Plaza One, 1st Avenue Road, Eastwood, Quezon City	Shiro Sato Japanese	Senior Staff Manager
SUPER MAX WOOD INTERNATIONAL, INC. Lot 1 Ubando Bldg., Habitat C Mandaluyong Brgy. 378, Pasay City	Tanvichian Kitti Thai	Manager
CHEVRON GEOTHERMAL PHILIPPINES HOLDINGS, INC. Half 3/F Building, Apollo Ave., Makati City	Timothy Joseph Bonsall American	Manager - Drilling Engineering
A & A ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENTS INC. and Tuazgabao St., Bonifacio, Pasay City	Chi Hangchy Singaporean	Executive Director
SUPER MAX WOOD INTERNATIONAL, INC. Lot 1 Ubando Bldg., Habitat C Mandaluyong Brgy. 378, Pasay City	Hongying Jiao Korean	Assistant Manager
ACM INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE BROKERS PHILIPPINES, INC. 2/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Christopher Dale British	CEO, Philippines
SWATTARA JI TRADING CORP. #1-5 Mesaniddahe St., Tandang Village East Diliman, Quezon City	Sunpreet Singh Indian	Purchaser
SWATTARA JI TRADING CORP. No. #1-5 Mesaniddahe St., Tandang Village East Diliman, Quezon City	Ashok Bhatia Indian	Collector
AUSTRIAN EMBASSY 6/F Pacific Star Bldg., Gen. Luna cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Heike Friederike Frank German	Administration Officer
ZEN TOUCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (SHENYANG) CO. LTD. 2/F Jardine Bldg., Bonifacio Ave. cor. Rizal St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Alan Paul Francois Minvielle French	Operations Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO S. ALMARIO
Regional Director

OBITUARIES

There are things that we don't want to happen but have to accept, things we don't want to know but have to learn, and people we can't live without but have to let go. (Anonymous)

10 years ago, on this day January 25, 2002, our Dear Joe, was called by our Lord.

Your memory will always be kept deep in our hearts to love, cherish and never forgotten.

Joe's loving wife Marcelina Esteban, His children, Grandchildren and his PSBC Family

HOLY MASSES IS OFFERED AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES: Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila, Quezon City. Our Lady of Fatima Church, Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City. St. Patrick Church, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. San Everguisto Moreno, Kaunlaran Village, Caloocan City. Maria, Reina ng mga Apostoles, Taguig City. St. Stephen Church, Laur, Nueva Ecija. Asuncion Church, Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur. St. Louis Cathedral, Session Road, Baguio City. St. Joseph Church, Pacdal Road, Baguio City. Assumption Church, F. Torres, Davao City. Our Lady of Lourdes, Bangkal, Davao City. Immaculate Concepcion Seminary, Vigan City. Benedictine Monastery, Vigan City.

ICD to mark 45th year on Jan 29

Jaime Pons

Dr. Leong

Dr. Tan

THE INTERNATIONAL College of Dentists (ICD) Philippines Section, the one-of-a-kind international honorary organization of dentists who have made a mark in the world with their contributions to dentistry and to the improvement of oral health, will celebrate its 45th Anniversary this an Annual Convention and Banquet, 6:00 P.M., January 29 at the Fellus Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

With its theme, "Continuing the Tradition of Service," the annual convention will have Associate Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno as guest of honor and including officer and awardi being bestowed by the inductions of new members led by Fellow Marilyn A. Leung, induction of eight new fellows, Drs. Maria Adelaida Angela Gerilano, Caroline Franco, Alvin Lawrence, Maria Laarni Santos, Ma. Jocelyn Sin, Sagunday Tapawan, and Angelica Torres, and conferment of honorary fellowship to Mr. Joselito S. Ong, Assistant Manager, Professional Relations Management Division of United, in recognition of his significant contributions in enabling ICD memberships a success.

Dr. Leong, who had vast experience in prestigious organizations such as the Philippine Academy of Periodontology, Board of Philippine Orthodontists, which regulates the practice of Orthodontics in the Philippines, Academy of Esthetic International, and the UP Dental Alumni Association, takes over from Dr. Wanda S. Tan. Over the years, ICD, guided by its motto, "Fellowship Service and the Opportunity to Serve," has been assisting mostly the underserved segments of society. In 2011, under the leadership of its President, Fellow Wanda S. Tan, the ICD Philippine Section was able to complete numerous socio-civic projects like the upgrading of a sleep room in Dasol Elementary Scholastic building, Cadiz benefitting 1,000 students; an outreach program to Smokey Mountain, Tondo where tooth cleaning, tooth extractions, haircut, oral health education and distribution of dental kits were performed; gift-giving to patients of the Philippine Children's Medical Center and National Children's Hospital; and a comprehensive visit kit and pasta can program in cooperation with Moorhoff Craniofacial Foundation Philippines, Inc and Mindanao Appasthesia, Inc.

Aside from these socio-civic projects, ICD through the support of Unilab Laboratories Inc. and Dentsply Philippines, executive involvement in scholarly projects such as the Faculty Development Research Workshop which was participated by faculty members from the different dental schools in the Philippines to enhance the capabilities of the different dental colleges to produce quality research papers. Another noteworthy project of ICD was the Student Scholarship Program. From the donations of generous philanthropic friends of Dr. Tan, two deserving dental students were awarded scholarships. A total of six scholarship grants were donated and three will be awarded in succeeding years.

In Loving Memory

EDITHA MONASTERIO PULIDO

On The 24th Anniversary of Her Birth To Eternal Life
30 June 1954 - 25 January 2009

The EDITHA MONASTERIO PULIDO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC. and her family request the prayers and/or to join for her eternal repose.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
(JOHN 11:25-26)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." - John 3:16

In Loving Memory

Mariano B. Peñaflorida

who passed away on 28 January 1981

Masses will be offered on
Thursday, 26 January 2012 at the following:

Sanctuario de San Antonio ..... 12:15 noon
Escolastico

Sanctuario de San Jose ..... 7:15 a.m.
Escolastico

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church ..... 6:00 p.m.
Mandaluyong

Sto. Niño de Tondo Church ..... 6:00 p.m.
Manila

Our Lady of Perpetual Help ..... 6:00 p.m.
Basilica

Parish of the Holy Sacrifice ..... 6:00 p.m.
U.P.

St. Joseph's Church ..... 11:00 a.m.
Project, Quezon City

St. Clement's Church ..... 5:30 p.m.
Sta. Mesa, Manila

The family requests relatives, friends and prayer warriors to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Republic of the Philippines

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN RE: PETITION TO MAKE AGUS 1 AND AGUS 2 HEPS EMBEDDED GENERATOR OF LANAO DEL SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

LANAO DEL SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LASURECO) REPRESENTED BY GENERAL MANAGER SULTAN ASHARY P. MAONGCO,
Petitioner,

versus

NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NGCP), POWER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM) AND NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC),
Respondents.

ERC Case No. 2011-079 MC

DOCKETED
Date: JAN 3 2012
By:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on November 21, 2011 the Lanao Del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LASURECO) represented by General Manager Sultan Ashary P. Maongco filed a "Petition" praying that Agus 1 and Agus 2 Hydro Electric Plants owned by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) and operated by the National Power Corporation (NPC) becomes petitioner's "embedded generator" where LASURECO will directly draw its power supply from.

In its Petition, LASURECO alleged, among others, the following:

"II. Factual Allegations Supporting the Petition

The Province of Lanao del Sur is the haven of Lake Lanao, which is the source of power and electricity that supplies 50% of the required power demand of Mindanao through the Agus Hydro Electric Plants (Agus HEPs) that generate power.

These Agus HEPs are operated by the National Power Corporation.

The petitioner, which is a juridical entity, an electric cooperative, is the only electric cooperative that provides for the entire demand of electricity of the Province of Lanao del Sur where lake Lanao is located.

At present, LASURECO is now drawing its electricity and power from the grid through the 69kV lines owned by NGCP at its source at Abaga Substation in Balo-i, Lanao del Norte (See the attached sematic diagram of the present connection of LASURECO and the proposed connection, marked as Annex "B" and "C", respectively) despite the construction of Agus 1 HEP in Sadud, Malabel City & Agus 2 HEP in Bagulan, Lanao del Sur.

Since LASURECO is sourcing its power from Abaga Substation which (sic) located in about 30 kilometers from LASURECO station, the petitioner is being charged of Ancillary Charges and Power supply Delivery Charges (See Annex "D" – Billing Statement of NGCP) which could be legally removed if LASURECO will be switched to the nearby Hydro Electric Plants, that is Agus 1 & 2 HEPs which will relieved the burden of the host communities of the source of the HEPs and to help LASURECO meet its contractual obligations to its suppliers, including the respondents.

It is worthy to note, however, that during the Agus 1 and 2 HEPs' construction, LASURECO was supplying power to them. To recall also, two years ago there was an attempt to allow LASURECO to source its power from Agus 1 and 2 HEPs, but it was aborted when the 50 MW of NGCP (formerly TransCo) crashed out.

At present, the production cost of Agus Complex (the 6 Hydro Electric Plants) is P0.35 per kWh and it has no more outstanding obligations.

For the information of the Honorable Commission, LASURECO is on its final year of rehabilitation (See Annex "E" – NEA Certification) after it was assumed by the present management under the stewardship of Sultan Ashary P. Maongco who initially served as project supervisor and acting general manager pursuant to a memorandum of agreement between National Power Corporation and National Electrification Administration to assist Maongco who was then an Account's Manager of NPC to lead the Integrated Rehabilitation Plan for LASURECO (See Annex "F" – NEA Memorandum and Office Order). When the National Electrification Administration saw the dramatic development introduced by Maongco, it appointed him as its General Manager, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors of LASURECO, which paved the way for his total separation from NPC.

Prior to the separation of Maongco, LASURECO is in its near natural death. To borrow the language of former NEDA Secretary Dr. Habito, "(b)arely four years ago, the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative (LASURECO) had all but collapsed. It had run up debts amounting to P3.8 billion, with no clear way how this could be paid. It was collecting only 8 percent on its billable power, and release of power bills to consumers was four months delayed. And while the electric co-op served all of Lanao del Sur, only Marawi City and the municipality of Malabang (out of 40 municipalities) were being billed. The database of its member consumers was grossly outdated, with only about 19,000 listed. Systems loss was a whopping 63 percent. None of the funds it received, including those externally provided for special purposes (such as 34 barangay electrification projects), were properly accounted for. (See Annex "G" – Column of Dr. Cielito F. Habito)

In just three years time, under Maongco's lead, has shown to the energy family that through good management, an ailing electric cooperative can be revitalized (See Annex "H" – Accomplishment Report). But petitioner recognized that rehabilitating the system and its organization is not his greatest battle; it is making LASURECO viable and good clientele of its supplier and to pay its previous obligations to NGCP, PSALM and NPC that skyrocketed to more than P6 billion, including interest and surcharges. These challenges, however, are beset by several factors that in such a way hamper its struggle for collection efficiency. These factors are: the wrong notion of the Maranao that Lake Lanao belongs to them; heroes; electricity is free; high incidence of poverty; cultural factor; and unsolicited political intervention.

At present, the power cost of LASURECO is at P5.1274 per kWh, which if LASURECO will be allowed to directly draw its source from Agus 1 HEP & Agus 2 HEP and by giving LASURECO a straight rate of P1.50 generation rate per kWh will be reduced at a rate of P4.8643 per kWh.

The present management, in the final year of LASURECO's rehabilitation, gears on improving its collections efficiency by 80-85% by reducing its system losses by single digit by implementing transformer and cluster metering and vis-à-vis making itself current by middle of 2012 as shown in the financial analysis (Annex "I" – FINANCIAL TOAT TEND (SIC) LASURECO VIABILITY BY JULY 2012).

The above dream can be materialized by directly allowing LASURECO to draw its electric supply from Agus 1 and Agus 2 HEPs. By doing so, LASURECO can allocate at least P0.25 of its collection as payment of its indebtedness, excluding interest and surcharges. And in nearly 10 years, LASURECO will be totally stripped of all its NGCP financial obligations; and in nearly 25 years, it will be freed of its PSALM indebtedness without conducting a single centavo (Annex "J" – FINANCIAL SIMULATION FOR THE PROPOSED RATES AS THE RESULT OF AGUS 1 & 2 HEP AS EMBEDDED GENERATOR OF LASURECO).

Thus, this noble vision will propel the economic turbines of the province because investment will come in easily if electricity is at a (sic) cheaper. Thus, and pursuant to the rationale and mandate of EPERA (sic) LAW, the host communities will be able to enjoy a preferential rate, through the petitioner, as a consequence of the removal of Ancillary Services Charges and Power Supply Delivery Charges.

IV. Prayer

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner Lanao Del Sur Electric Cooperative (LASURECO) prays from the Honorable Commission the following reliefs:

(1) That National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), the Respondent, be directed to allow LASURECO to draw its electricity from Agus 1 HEP and Agus 2 HEP;

(2) That by making Agus 1 HEP and Agus 2 HEP as embedded generator of LASURECO, the ancillary charges and power supply delivery charges be removed from the bill of LASURECO to NGCP;

(3) That LASURECO be given a straight rate of P1.50 of which the P0.05 shall be applied as payment of LASURECO to its obligation to PSALM;

(4) Other reliefs equitable are also prayed."

The Commission has set the petition for preliminary conference on January 31, 2012 (Tuesday) at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission, giving the docket number and the title of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest if affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the petition or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the petitioner concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the petition may request the petitioner, prior to the date of initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the petition. The petitioner is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the petition and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the petition and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable Chairperson, **ZENAIDA G. CRUZ-DUCUT**, and the Honorable Commissioners, **MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA, JOSE C. REYES, ALFREDO J. NON** and **GLORIA VICTORIA C. YAP-TARUC**, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 2nd day of January, 2012 at Pasig City.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, January 2, 2012.

ATTY. FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN
Executive Director

Copy furnished:

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Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio

Hon. Edita S. Bueno
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Senator Sergio Osmeña
Chairman, Joint Congressional Power Commission
Senate of the Philippines
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Pasay City

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Makati City

Commission on Audit
Commonwealth Avenue
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Senate Committee on Energy
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Pasay City

House Committee on Energy
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

BUSINESS

T-bill rates for all tenors up

BTr cites adjustments following cut in key policy

By Raoul W. Dumlao

THE YIELD on the 91-day Treasury bill rose by 14.6 basis points in an average of 1,479 pesos in the government allows the market to adjust on the prevailing "depressed" interest rates.

This happened as investors sent out offerings of long-term debt paper following the reduction of key policy rates. Last week, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas cut its overnight borrowing rate by 25 basis points to 4.25 percent.

Yesterday's average for the benchmark bill was 22.4 basis points higher than the corresponding 1.45 percent set for done deals in the secondary market.

Also, interest rates on the 182-day T-bill rose by 49.0 basis points to an average of 2.221 percent, although—as with the benchmark bill—the BTr did not fully award the volume on offer.

The rambling average was 29.7 basis points higher than the 1.920 percent prevailing rate at the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp.

Further, the government rejected all tenders for the 364-day T-bill.

National Treasurer Roberto R. Tan said in an interview that the auction results reflected the government's desire for the local financial market to normalize.

"There is zero tax adjustment (of rates) taking place," Tan said. "We are cognizant of what's needed to be done, considering that (rates) are very depressed, especially in December."

Even then, the Treasury cited until the government maintained only those windows that were of significant volume, referring to those for the three-month and six-month bills.

Tenders for the 91-day bill reached P4.68 billion, or less than twice the P2.5 billion offer.

Bids for the 182-day bill totaled P1.33 billion, also less than twice the P1 billion offer. Those for the 364-day bill reached P1.19 billion, less than the P1.5-billion offer.

The government raised a total of P3.56 billion, or just above a third of the planned P9 billion, as buyers tendered a total of P13.39 billion.

Had the government awarded all of its offers, the yield on the three-month bill would have shot up by 29.2 basis points to an average of 1.71 percent while that for the six-month bill would have added 98.3 basis point to 2.305 percent.

The yield on the one-year bill would have risen by 97.6 basis points to 2.953 percent.

CAB: PH carriers may not expand flights to S. Korea

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LOCAL AIRLINES have been banned from expanding operations to South Korea, according to the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

Seoul reportedly took its cue from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which imposed a similar ban on the Philippines due to the country's out-of-date safety regulations.

Civil Aeronautics Board executive director Carmelo Arcilla said the South Korean government has not yet granted an application by AirPhil Express to launch flights to Incheon, gateway to the Seoul capital.

Arcilla yesterday explained that the South Korean government cited the Philippines' "Category 2 status with the FAA" as the basis for the decision.

Under South Korean rules, airlines from countries like the Philippines, which are rated category 2 by the FAA, are banned from expanding flights to and from the country.

The ban also covers countries blacklisted by the European Union (EU) and those that have been cited with "serious safety concerns" by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Incidentally, the Philippines is also blacklisted by the EU and the ICAO.

But existing flights will not be affected, even after the Malaysian, Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific, the country's two top carriers, have flights to South Korea.

Arcilla said the CAB had scheduled a meeting in the first week of February with its counterparts in South Korea to renegotiate the matter.

FSE to commence drilling in Benguet

By Riza T. Olchondra

EXPLORATORY work has been gearing ground at the Far Southeast Gold Project (FSEP) in Benguet, according to Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Lepanto said Tuesday that its 60-percent owned subsidiary, the Intellaroro Gold Resources Inc., which owns the project in Benguet, is "set to commence drilling in the area as scheduled."

Lepanto also assured the PSE that its planned claim on the mining asset would allow it to proceed with drilling works, even though the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) earlier issued an injunction on the mining activity.

The NCIP is the government body that issues certificates required under the permitting process whenever indigenous peoples are involved.

"Since the property in question is a patented claim of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company, the matter has been settled," Lepanto said.

Studies for the Far Southeast project is set to be completed in the first half of 2012.

Lepanto seeks to develop FSE through a partnership with Gold Fields Limited of South Africa, one of the biggest gold miners in the world, with whom Lepanto executed an option and shareholders' agreement in September 2010. Gold Fields is presently undertaking due diligence and is considering acquiring a 60-percent stake in FSE under a $240-million deal.

Firms eyeing oil, gas blocks get bid deadline extension

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has extended the deadlines for the submission of offers of companies wanting to explore and develop the country's oil and gas blocks.

The DOE decided to extend the date of submission of pre-qualification documents to Feb. 29, then Jan. 31, to give the companies more time to prepare their bids for the Philippine Energy Contracting Round 4.

The submission of actual proposals for each area was also extended, with the earliest date set on March 30 for areas 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. The deadline for the bid proposals covering areas 6, 7, 14 and 15 has been set on April 6. For areas 3, 4 and 5, the deadline is July 31.

According to Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr., the extension was made upon the request of the bidders themselves.

Most companies are currently working out consortium agreements with other existing and potential service contractors, he explained.

At the same time, the move also gave interested bidders more time to evaluate the new seismic data covering some of the areas offered under PECR 4.

"This view of the (new) data is expected to affect proposed bids and work programs that will form part of the service contracts, which will be awarded, should the bidder win," Layug said.

MOTORING

Editor Jong R. Arcasas

Funkier Prius is here, and it's more affordable!

By Yeza R. Salazar

IT'S quite ironic that the price of being an Earth-friendly, fuel-saver someone in the Philippines still isn't at the down-to-earth levels. Saving the planet, it seems, has been confined to enclaves.

Take, for example, the cost of the most-awaited new generation Toyota Prius. Sure the much-needed tax breaks from the government, the price tag on Toyota's hybrid vehicle is a discouraging P1.265 million, which only a few will actually buy (in fact, there have been only around 70 taken of the Prius in the country, so far).

Toyota, however, seems to have found a way around this dilemma, and, as break or none, the world leader in automotive manufacturing has been able to bring down the price of the Prius to no less than P1.075 million.

Yes, that's how much the new Prius C costs. Sure, it's 483 mm shorter, 30 mm narrower, and 25 mm lower than the 3rd Gen Prius, and certainly gives up about 181 liters of trunk space. But as a result, it's 200 kg lighter. The Department of Tourism would love to parade this cute animal around. Why? Because it's more fun to drive than the bigger Prius. For that

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TOYOTA moving forward

Funkier Prius is here. . .

From page B23

manner, it even looks more lively to drive than most hatchets of approximate size.

What Toyota took out in body size, it seems to have made up for in power-to-weight ratio gains. Though the Prius C is powered by a 1.5-litre 4-cylinder DOHC VVT-i 80-horse cycle engine that complies with standard regulations of Euro 4 emissions, when the electric engine kicks in as well, the Prius C's power is the same as that of the 2-litre Altis. That's actually 1,798 horsepower, which when combined with the electric motor, is equivalent to Camry's 2.4-litre engine output.

But the yes uninformed. Toyota's hybrid synergy drive combines different power sources. The 1NR-FE engine and hybrid motor, combines an internal combustion engine's power at high speeds with the clean efficiency and low-speed torque of an electric motor that never needs to be plugged in. It sometimes feels somewhat underpowered and surprising, while maintaining powertrain characteristics, providing seamless acceleration and surprisingly slow performance.

Toyota's Multi-Drive line yet to take the Prius C out on a spin, for an expert, it is indicated that the Prius C is also equipped with the same HID technology that produces excellent drivability and unparalleled fuel economy. The Prius C's engine efficiency is also enhanced through the adoption of the D-4S (Dynamic Force Intelligent system and electric power pump. The set-up conveyor intercepts the voltage from the HV battery from DC-DC to a nominal 12 volts, and the 1.5kW 9.9 volt high voltage motor and generator, thus, producing better engine response. The characteristics of the hybrid system include the ability to seamlessly use the gasoline engine and electric motor based on driving conditions, conditions which offer smooth and assertive driving, while significantly maximising fuel consumption and gas emissions. The HV battery is rebooted through the use of the regenerative braking system that allows continuous recharging as you drive.

The first generation Prius was introduced in 1997. Fifteen years later, THP unveils its all-new compact Prius C, where the "C" stands for compact, then, however, and city. This time, however, the Prius doesn't take itself too seriously as Toyota designers have imagined the "less Prius" concept—a compact body with sporty proportions.

The face of the vehicle expresses a powerful impression of new bold stance, creating a strong sense of dynamic motion from front to rear that is noticeable even from a distance. Based on the Toyota global design, it is fashioned to create a fun and lively hands. Headlamp enthusiasts have been shaped to accentuate the high beams. The car's rear taper with unique, muscle performance in mind, incorporates a design as underbody form and a built with a sturdy stance that conveys an agile driving experience.

Inside the Prius C cabin, unified geometric surfaces radiate a bold and fun interior. Various colour combinations, including interior color schemes create a clean and energetic environment inside the car. Overall, the Prius C is an art form of engineering moulded with an iconic design.

The fun-filled hybrid compact car comes with 5 elegant colors to choose from, and four price options.

The price of going Hybrid

Is the Prius C worth its weight in black gold?

By Jason K. Ang

WHILE RUMOURS swirling for politicians from the Malaysian automotive electric vehicles to become a potential competitor is one part of the world, gasoline-electric hybrid cars are available, here and now. They offer an attractive solution worthy of consideration. Their pollution is unbelievable less than that of an equivalent gasoline-powered vehicle, and their mileage is also fuel is quite comparable to that of an equivalent car that is all-what-not?

Toyota has just launched Prius C, as a more pocket friendly, subcompact of for a brand-new hybrid entrant, RM1,470,000. That is relatively affordable for a hybrid, but still expensive compared to conventional 8 segment hatchbacks.

There's the inevitable comparison of how much you would need to drive to recoup the initial cost of the hybrid option. If we take the Prius C and compare it to its nearest equivalent in size in the Toyota lineup, that would be the Yaris. The Yaris runs RM66,888 and gets an estimated 4.6 litres/litre.

The Prius C is geared to be 32.56 km/litre, thus the difference in purchase price and our fueling rates mean mark an investment and maintenance, and a price of RM0.00 per litre of gasoline, you would have to log 2,850,000 km of driving before you recoup your initial investment. That is well beyond the warranty of either car, at 160,000 km.

Of course, the fuel-savings is not the only consideration in buying a hybrid. If it was the only factor, people like Leonardo di Caprio and Cameron Diaz wouldn't be queueing around in Priuses. The fuel savings aspect would be relatively different if the government were to offer incentives or tax rebates for the purchase of a hybrid.

Another consideration is the technology. Hybrids represent a technological advance over conventional cars, and thus inherently cost more—at least for now. Just as you may buy what you perceive as the best laptop or smartphone despite it being more expensive than an ordinary device, you may also opt for the Prius C here over the other attractive. In its favor, Prius C is complete with electronic safety features, from traction control to ABS and brake assist, to its five airbags that are not all available in its conventional engine/chassis.

Swearing up the car and entering cell in what's supposed to be a hybrid it is still a pedestrian experience in this world of motoring.

Another factor is the environment, or at least one's feeling that he is doing his part for Mother Earth. The Prius C will shoot certainly be thrilled, as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency parlance, as a Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle, typically 90 percent less emissions than an equivalent gasoline car. In the Prius C's case, it emits only half that of the cleanest-engined cars. That would make it the cleanest gasoline-powered car in the world (without using about it) is perhaps the ultimate reward of going hybrid.

We commend Toyota Motor Philippines for pioneering the sale of hybrid vehicles in the Philippines. Its hybrid demonstrates the parent company's hallmark technology, one inspires is promoting the brand image. Several models, bringing in a couple of hybrid cars, from the Prius C to the all-to-luxury Lexus LS600h L, with no tax breaks from the government required a leap of faith.

With the Prius C, a new class of consumer may join enthusiasts that leap.

'Legendary' IMV engineer talks of the new

By Tunku K. Sabaan

KAORU HOSOKAWA, Toyota's executive chief engineer, carries that certain "look" that is easily identifiable, and hard to forget. Some admirers call it "What genius look," while others would go even further and call it the "mad scientist" look.

The look, however which way you put it, is justified. This good natured engineer has been responsible for the world wide success of Toyota's IMV or Innovative International Multi-Purpose Vehicle design. For that feat, Toyota executives have conferred him the ultimate compliment by just simply calling him "Legend." The engineer, who holds the position of general manager of Japan and Europe's product planning division, was present at the recent launch of the 2012 Avanza at the Southern Cultural City Tent, and naturally became Motor Image wanted to time picking the brains of the genius, mad scientist, or legend—whichever moniker makes the hair on your head stand on end.

HH: What's your reaction when the big bosses at Toyota call you the "legend"?

KH: I am very glad to be called a legendary chief engineer (chuckle) it is an overwhelming. I think they evaluated the success of IMV project over the past many years around the globe.

HH: How did you become an engineer, and how did you end up with Toyota?

KH: In the days when I was a student, I had the hope that I would design (something) that would remain in the hearts of customers. It turned out that (I) would be a car. I studied engineering at Osaka University in Japan. My career in the dream, I joined TMC in 1979.

HH: Let's talk about your creation, the Avanza. In terms of dimensions, how does the new Avanza compare with the previous one?

KH: The current model is (from) longer and 15 mm wider. Our intention is that by using unit-seven dimension, we created a wider interior.

HH: Does this difference have an effect on stability? We lost-drive the old Avanza and felt the height adversely affecting ride stability.

KH: When you compare the vehicle's height with passenger cars, dozens to higher. Higher vehicles are influenced more by side wind. It becomes unstable. So, to reduce such instability, this time we modified the suspension, making the new Avanza stand firmly on the ground. It was a very important job for the engineer of the class. We have made the new Avanza give drivers stability even during strong side wind conditions, rough roads, floods, and so on.

HH: How about the handling, is it improved?

KH: The new Avanza has smooth handling. Not only is the ride smooth, the steering is reliable. You can feel by hand through the steering wheel the movement of the vehicle. You feel as if you're firmly on the ground. The steering system of the new Avanza gives the driver the greatest feel that he can drive the vehicle with safety in mind in every kind of road.

HH: How about changes or improvements to the engine?

KH: We did adjustments of the combustion, optimizing the balance between the driving performance like acceleration and fuel efficiency. There are many many ways to improve. We carried over the same gear ratios for the transmission and the rear differential. It means that the previous was the best for Asian countries.

HH: Why did you adjust the combustion?

KH: Every driver expects better acceleration and fuel economy, not only for the Asian region but also worldwide. Especially for some countries like Indonesia and Philippines with many motorcycles. We (showed) on the right gear ratio to climb steep slopes easily.

HH: As you claim that the new Avanza has shown an eight-percent improvement in fuel efficiency.

KH: An eight-percent improvement was what we could do at most.

HH: How would you assess the cost of owning this new Avanza compared to the previous one?

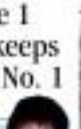
KH: I think there would be no drastic change in ownership cost. It means that for the previous model, from the viewpoint of the cost of ownership, our owners of Avanza were satisfied. It is always economical owning an Avanza.

HH: How were you able to remain not with a more lightweight Avanza despite adding length and width?

KH: Yes, the new Avanza is approximately 10 kg lighter than the previous model. We put in so many improvements as possible. Examples of material change include using more plastic, thinner but stronger and safer metal plates, making the shape of the parts smaller, or simpler or integrated, and so on.

HOSOKAWA, the man behind the marvelous success of Toyota's IMV, or Innovative International Multi-Purpose Vehicle design, stands proud beside one of his best creations. Ezlan Ismail

The 1 that keeps BMW No. 1



ON THE ROAD

Aida Saridin
Mentefaya

The 1 Series is BMW's second best-selling model in the M4 after the 3 Series. Red linings on the steering wheel and dash (above) distinguishes the 116i Sport. AZMAN GANYO/THE STAR

IT MAY not be seemingly broadcast, but the BMW 1 Series is still a winner—it's the car that helped to keep BMW number one in the premium car market. At a press briefing last week, Asian Carmakers Corporation (ACC), the official importer and distributor of BMW in the country, announced that in 2011, the 1 Series was BMW's second best-selling model after the 3 Series and contributed to the 10 per cent increase in year-on-year sales for 2011.

ACC claimed that the 1 Series dominated its segment with over-to-year unit sales of 147, a 141-percent jump from the 2010 figures that further increased its share of the premium car category to 54 percent. In the premium luxury car market, BMW cornered 33 percent share in 2011, making its leadership therein by the which conservative term. Globally, BMW brand sales rose 11.8 percent in 2011 to a total of 1,380,384 vehicles, the highest sales level in BMW history.

Building upon its success as a sporty driver, ACC launched the second generation 1 Series last January. Our test unit, the all-new "116i" concept in it is available in either the standard, the Urban or the Sport line. The 2012 116i standard or basic line retails at RM 290,000, the Urban 116d line sells at RM 309,000 and the Sport 116i as tested here 116i Sport costs RM 309,000.

Twin Power Turbo. The baby Bimmer commands a premium price not only because it is a BMW but also because all three lines have the following as standard: Bi-Xenon headlights, Brake Energy Regeneration (perhaps a hydraulic brake derivative of

the car uses the engine at a red light or idles. A slight tap of the driver's foot on the accelerator pedal quickly restarts the engine.

The new 1 Series is 48 mm longer and 17 mm wider than the first gen 1 Series and has 30 mm more in the wheelbase. The suspension consists of MacPherson struts up front and multilink at the rear. Despite the car's increased length and wider track, it's extremely responsive for rear seat passengers is still cramped and the rear headroom and seat cushion felt hard. This is a driver-oriented car, obviously, with the dash sloped towards the driver and its steering-wheel driving position. The materials in the cockpit, whether leather or plastic, have a premium feel and headrests is just sufficient.

Any 1m you'll soon forget about the exterior design and interior space-and-ergonomics once you get behind the wheel. You will discover to your delight that the 1 Series brings immense joy to the driving experience whether barreling down straights or cornering around curves. The 116i Sport's 1.6-litre, 4-cylinder engine has to drive in the power-on compact car segment, with its well-balanced chassis, its refined twin-turbo diesel engine willingly serving just 3,000 rpm if you are with and its sports car-like handling.

The 116d Sport's peak horsepower is rated at 143, but it feels like it can deliver more. The availability of four driving options—ECO PRO, Comfort, Sport and Sport Plus—can easily be changed and/or the prevailing traffic situation enhances the driving pleasure. To increase fuel economy and for environment-ally friendly, press the ECO PRO button. If you want to relax and don't have effort in driving, press the Comfort button. This will result in a softer suspension setup via more damping, increased clutch resistance, relaxed servo-assisted steering and softer upshifts.

Selecting the Sport option stiffens the suspension, reduces steering assist while allowing more weighted steering, activates throttle response and keeps the transmission in lower gear for a longer period of time before it upshifts. You get a more connected feeling from the suspension and the sport six-transmission setting.

Sport Plus. For the driving enthusiast, Sport Plus is the obvious choice. It makes the transmission more aggressive and keeps it well-above 4,000 or 5,000 rpm without any upshifts. Steering is less refined and the suspension becomes firmer to a point that's nothing underneath the car. But naturally Sport Plus for enthusiasts more feel than the 320 PRO mode.

Summing up, the 1 Series 116d Sport is neither a true-blue sports car (only an entry-level luxury car because of its high price. Plus its small cabin and limited cargo space make it impractical for a family of four going on a long trip. But it is extremely well-built and the fuel economy is fantastic. It is also the same time offering exceptional fuel economy. If you happen to have 192,7 million to spare, consider this diesel baby Bimmer.

Today's Bumper Aviator: Mentefaya is a good servant, but a poor master.

Shifting gears

SKID MARKS
Ricardo Sarmiento

A VAST majority of car enthusiasts have taken on a major project at least once in their lives, ranging from building a car with a specific purpose in mind (track, show, drag, drift etc.), re-restoring an old car, usually something with special ties to their respective personal pasts, or a crazy swap, like converting a FWD car to AWD (popular on Mitsubishi Galants and Lancers in particular), or a crazy engine swap, which nowadays usually involves stuffing Yankee V8 iron into a Japanese or German car for a real sleeper.

It's all fun and good up to a certain point, and the process can be a most educational and enlightening experience. More important, it can lead you to meet more friends. Like-minded people who are only too willing to help you find those rare parts, a raising hatrons diagram or present a unique solution and novel to an engineering problem involved in modding your car. This is the other side of the car culture which people outside our hobby/passion/calling fail to see. And it is quite difficult indeed for other people, particularly to our family, non-car-owning friends and significant others. They just see the time, effort and money, plus risking it in a car that can potentially leave you and your occupants stranded in some dark lonely place, starving, frustrated or outright cursing at us for not being able to see that it's not all fake, whether we care to admit it or not.

Some of those projects and endeavors are life-changing: we learn about ourselves, our limits and, funny enough, our resourcefulness and patience. I feel this is the ultimate value in going through cliffhanger and challenging projects, be it cars or other pastime or our professional lives, even in relationships. Of course, cynics will argue that you could have spent all that time, effort, energy and resources on something more fruitful, but passion has this habit of choosing us instead of us choosing it. Many times our passions, to this user, a love for anything with four wheels is passed down from one generation to the other. We were born surrounded by this environment, and we naturally catch it. Like fish to water.

Unfortunately, there comes a time in our lives when we need to focus on more pressing and urgent matters, like family life, our professional careers, perhaps a move to a foreign land for better opportunities, all of which having to put our love for cars, tuning and fabbing on, private on the back-burner for the meantime so that we can devote more of our time to them.

Slow-lifed myself in this situation. The need to work harder, the need to focus, void of course the need to save, spend less and be prudent on the things I put myself into. Cars are the biggest part of my life outside of faith and family. Most of my friends are car enthusiasts, people to the business of selling cars or car parts, mechanics, tuners and other similar people. My world has gotten much smaller. I got to race, as well most enthusiasts agree, that. Thanks to new challenges, I have found the courage to admit to myself that I still need to put my love for cars on the sidelines for now at least.

That doesn't mean I'll stop driving cars with the same passion as before, nor stop liking cars, reading and writing about them. It only means that basically, I have to stop spending on cars, making them go faster, look better (in my eyes at least) save up and basic financial work. I still parking very younger, and while I'd like to believe that time is still on my side, I have to start spending that most precious commodity wisely.

But I will not forget, nor turn my back on all the wonderful people in the world of cars. Not one, not ever. But I will continue back to cars the way I am now (or should I say was before). Starting ways to make it go faster, corner better, stop sooner etc. In the meantime, let's start driving some cars!

MMPC maintains steady annual growth despite challenges

FOR THE fifth straight year since 2006, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. has continued to experience steady positive growth.

Despite last year's challenges—the earthquake and tsunami that had hit Japan in the early part of 2011 and the massive flooding in Thailand that affected the auto industry's supply chain a few months after—MMPC still registered a 1 percent growth as compared to 2010.

This translates to total sales of 32,802 units.

In hindsight, the Philippine automotive industry closed 2011 with a decline of 3 percent, registering sales of 180,056 units based on combined reports from Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi), Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) and Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors (Aviid) members.

Growth drivers

Among MMPC's drivers of growth are its light commercial vehicles L200 Strada, which is also on top several segments, including the SUV segment wherein the combined sales of Montero Sport and Nativa reached 12,226 units.

MMPC also topped the double cab pickup segment as 8,236 units (Strada) were sold, thus capturing its 27.7 percent share.

Overall, MMPC's LCV share increased by 2.5 percent largely behind the excellent performance of the Strada, Montero Sport, ASX, Pajero, Adventure and L300 models while its Passo market and losses increased by 12.7 percent.

28 percent share

With these figures, MMPC was able to capture 28 percent market share, making the company the second best performing automotive brand in the country.

For 2012, MMPC is optimistic that it will further improve its sales volume and market share as it is projecting a growth of 12 percent, or compared to its 2011 sales performance 136,500 units).

The positive outlook is attributed to MMPC's scheduled model enhancements as well as new variant introduction of its existing line up.

"This year MMPC is geared not only on working on its best to achieve its projected sales volume but is also dedicated in improving its after sales and customer service," said Hiroshi Shibata, MMPC president and CEO.

More models, variants

For 2012, Shibata expects that MMPC will continue to bring in more vehicles that will respond to the need for a quality vehicle for every lifestyle and at the same time environment friendly.

MMPC also expects to improve its passenger car sales with the introduction of its "global small car" or the Mitsubishi Mirage, which made its debut in last year's Tokyo Motor Show.

The Mirage is expected to easily gain market acceptance, considering its outstanding fuel economy and top of its class features.

"This integrates our commitment of providing utmost driving pleasure and safety to our valued customers and our environment," Ishowo, MMPC said further work on the expansion of its dealership network to make quality vehicles and services available to every valued customer anywhere in the Philippines," promised Shibata, who informed that the company is set to open an additional three outlets this year to bring its total number to 48 dealership nationwide.

Similar development

MMPC expects to provide a similar market excitement that happened last year when it introduced an upgraded Montero Sport and Strada.

With new variants now powered by Variable Geometry Turbocharged engine, MMPC naturally expected to target market and contributed on the company's sales from during the first quarter of 2011.

Both models continue to attract more and more customers not only because of its combined appeal and superb performance but also by the high value for money proposition it offers to customers, especially with added technology enhancements such as the audio information and multi-media system equipped on some of its variants.

To date, MMPC has already sold a total of 50,515 units of Montero Sport since its introduction in 2008.

Aside from the upgrades of these bestsellers, MMPC also expanded its LCV line up by introducing 1,200 Single Cab pickup and cab chassis, which is targeted for fleet and business use.

A cab version of the Adventure was also introduced and in no time, got approved approved and acted both by the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board as an alternative model for the existing vehicle fleet of land operators.

Chevrolet achieves best-ever global sales in 2011

DETROIT—CHEVROLET sold 4.76 million vehicles around the world in 2011, setting a global sales record and driving General Motors Co. (NYSE: GM) global sales to more than 9 million vehicles, a 7.6-percent gain compared with 2010.

GM gained from results of a point of market share as 11.5 percent of the global vehicle industry. Sales were up in all four reporting regions—North America, South America, Europe and International Operations—as GM sold a total of 9,029,542 vehicles compared with 8,383,484 in 2010.

The United States led the way for Chevrolet with total vehicle sales of 2,775,812, up more than 13 percent from 2010. China posted record sales of 593,000, up 9.5 percent from the previous year. Other markets that posted significant year-over-year increases include Germany (79 percent), Russia (49 percent), Turkey (30 percent) and Germany (21 percent).

"Chevrolet's impressive growth in both established and developing markets is the result of a strong new product lineup that meets the diverse needs of consumers around the world," said GM chairman and CEO Dan Akerson. "In addition to Chevrolet's record-setting sales, the entire lineup of GM vehicles is meeting consumer needs for its fuel-efficient cars and work vehicles as well as unmatched luxury."

Chevrolet is building its global presence by delivering cars like the Cruze, Sonic (Aveo) and Spark, the all-new mid-size global Malibu, and crossovers and trucks like the Orlando and Colorado that are designed for the varied driving conditions and customer preferences around the world.

The Chevrolet Cruze compact sedan led the brand with global sales of more than 870,000 in 2011, making it the best-selling Chevrolet nameplate around the world, with more than 1.13 million sold since its launch in 2009. In the United States, Chevrolet was the best-selling passenger car brand in 2011, thanks in large part to the success of the Cruze.

More than 15 markets experienced record Chevrolet sales in 2011, with the largest year-over-year increases in Peru (81 percent), Vietnam (79 percent), Thailand (57 percent), South Africa (56 percent) and Israel (46 percent). The top 10 Chevrolet sales markets in 2011 were:

Market Total 2011	Sales
United States	1,775,812
Brazil	632,291
China	593,000
Russia	173,000
Mexico	162,401
Canada	160,000
Argentina	132,491
Uzbekistan	121,384
India	111,358
Indonesia	105,193

"Without doubt the new Chevrolet portfolio has been a catalyst for our success around the world," said Tim Lee, president of GM International Operations. "The launch of the Chevrolet brand to South Korea along with tremendous growth in China and across the rest of our international operations is proof that Chevrolet is becoming a first choice for customers around the globe."

As Chevrolet enters its second century, it continues to become a truly global brand, with more than 60 percent of its sales outside the US market.

"In 2012, we will continue to expand our range with even more great vehicles as we pursue further growth in our key markets," Lee said.

On a corporate basis, GM's two largest markets in 2011 were China, where GM and its joint venture partners increased sales 8.7 percent year over year to 2,547,000 vehicles, and the United States, where GM sold 2,302,820 vehicles, up 13.9 percent compared with 2010. GM is the market leader in both countries.

Do your own oil change and save money

Do it Yourself

Text and photos by Charles E. Bulow

MORE THAN a great way to start saving, knowing how to change your vehicle's engine oil may be regarded as a rite of passage.

Vehicle manufacturers typically recommend an oil change every 5,000 kilometers or whenever the oil in the dipstick already has sludge deposits or giving particles of dirt.

It's not terribly complicated, but it's a little unclean than what your neighbor or friend may tell you (so it would be prudent to observe a mechanic first before attempting this in your own vehicle).

Nevertheless, Interest Motoring has those reminders and step-by-step guide on how to properly and successfully accomplish the task.

But before you get started, make sure you have three at least four to five liters of new oil (check your vehicle's manual or a mechanic for the proper kind, viscosity, API performance) and quantity required for your vehicle's engine), oil filter, final drainage usually (with the appropriate type and size for your vehicle), a set of wrench, oil filter wrench, a basin to catch the old oil, funnel, a couple of clean rags, newspaper, hand-cleaning solution or at least a disposable latex gloves.

1. Prepping up the vehicle

Cold oil will not drain properly, so before starting work, Top Gear Philippines magazine technical editor and racecars tuning shop Speedcafe.ph owner Fermin Lee suggest driving your car around to bring the oil to normal operating temperature.

Switch off the engine. Raise the hood and look for the oil filler cap (usually marked with the symbol of an oil can) and loosen it to avoid creating a vacuum (this will allow the old engine oil to drain from the bottom more freely).

2. Elevate front tires

If you don't have a ramp that would enable you to safely and comfortably slide underneath the vehicle's engine, a hydraulic jack will always suffice.

However, never rely on a jack to hold your vehicle up. It's dangerous and unstable, Lee reminded.

Use a block of wood or anything solid and place it underneath the front chassis. This is important should the hydraulic jack fails or slips and you are still underneath it.

Engage your handbrake and make sure both rear wheels are braced with wooden blocks to prevent the vehicle from rolling forward or backward.

Put your vehicle in first gear if you have a manual transmission or in "Park" if you have an automatic transmission.

3. Locate the drain plug

Locate the drain plug on the bottom of the engine casing or oil pan (this is usually the lowest part of the engine).

Using your wrench, turn the drain plug counterclockwise until it comes freely.

At this point point, place the basin underneath the drain plug (position the newspaper so that any wayward drops of oil will be absorbed) and finish removing the plug by hand.

Be careful of the oil, since it may be hot/ rapidly and is likely to be a little hot. Try not to drop the drain plug together with a sealing washer into the pan.

4. Loosen the oil filter

Locate the oil filter casing, which should be near the drain plug area and is cylindrical in shape. Loosen the oil filter by turning it counterclockwise with a filter wrench.

As you complete the removal by hand, remember the order of parts as you replace them later.

Also remember that the oil filter may be filled with waste oil and feel slightly heavy, so carefully ease it down and away from the engine and tip its contents into the drain pan.

Take your rag and wipe it and around the filter seat on the engine.

5. Insert new filter

As you insert a new filter coat one your finger or apply a light film of oil (new or used) to the gasket (the circular edge of the filter itself), which acts as a sealant.

Carefully screw the new filter onto the threaded oil line, turning it clockwise.

Once aligned properly, the filter will thread on easily. Tighten the filter by hand, taking care not to over tighten.

Screw the plug in by hand and finish by tightening it with a wrench, again, don't over tighten.

6. Return the drain plug

Once the old oil is fully drained (which should not take an hour), make sure the drain plug as well as a new washer (Lee suggests using a new one) are screwed back underneath.

At this time, remove all the supporting blocks before releasing the hydraulic jack. In case the vehicle is on a ramp, release the handbrake and allow the vehicle to slowly roll back down to level ground (do not turn the engine on!).

7. Pour new engine oil

On the top of the engine, unscrew the oil filler cap and proceed to fill the engine with the required quantity of oil.

Use a funnel to avoid spillage. Check the dipstick to ensure if proper fill level is already reached (there are markers on the dipstick).

T40 Oil filter may be filled with waste oil and feel slightly heavy.

ALWAYS check on the oil reserve.

Replace the cap and wipe off any spillage.

8. Start the engine

As you turn the engine on, the oil light should light up momentarily.

Run the engine for several minutes, then switch it off and check the dipstick once again to ensure check if engine oil is already on its proper level. According to Lee, it is likely that you will have to add some more.

Remember to check the vehicle's underneath for leaks, especially around the oil filter and sump drain plug.

9. Dispose old oil properly

The final, and in some ways the most important step to anyone's oil change is to ensure that the old oil is properly discarded.

Lee said that discarded engine oil is highly toxic to the environment and it is of the utmost importance that it is disposed in a safe fashion.

Transfer the old oil into a sealed container and consult your local authorities about options for its safe disposal.

By Alvin Uy

GERMAN LUBRICANT brand Car Performance, together with Liqui Moly Oil kicked off the year with a Car Mon Wee on the open fair grounds of King's Playground oil drift expert Ian King toasted at the FTI Complex in Taguig City. The fun morning run welcomed over a hundred cars and hundreds of motor and drift racing enthusiasts.

Aside from the open air car show, another highlight of the event was the Gymkhana Challenge, where race prepped cars had to undergo a race course with some obstacles challenging the driver's skills and the car's performance. The Gymkhana Challenge is a fun-timed race format designed for drift cars. The drift car drivers will have to run the course with the shortest lap time to win the challenge. Winner of the Gymkhana Challenge was Rick Tiro from Automobanya, with Nicole Agregado bagging second place while the third place went to Mike Garcia from Rockstar racing vehicles.

Kim Garcia and Steven Wellisa served as event hosts.

Among the celebrities present during the event were Jake Cuenca, Giselle Tsuyi, CJ07 Ho and Ian King's lovely wife Joey Abad. Spotted among the drift cars that were to support the event were 2011 Rookie of the Driver of the Year Ryo Llave in his Hyundai Dominic Cooper, sporting a newly developed body kit.

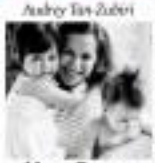
Major sponsor Liqui Moly, led by Sergio Ong, was there in full force to support the event. The event was staged with an advocacy in mind, which is to keep the youth out of drugs and away off the streets.

CARS of various brands and models on display at King's Playground

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Parenting

Audrey Tan-Zubiri



MAMA DIARIES

Pregnant? Congratulations!—but watch what you eat

BEING PREGNANT in our country is such a treat. At the first sign of a baby bump, everyone rushes to offer you their chair or assist you in carrying whatever you are struggling with. Such is the advantage of living in baby—loving Philippines! Even the traditional belly-rubbing by complete strangers can be fun, especially when you see how genuinely excited they are for you.

But the best part of being pregnant here is the food! Because, who do we Filipinos love to feed the most? Mom in little kids, that would have to be the women who are supposed to be eating for two.

When I was pregnant with my first child a few years ago, I remember well savoring sweet sending me delirious cakes and pastries. In the beginning, I enjoyed all of them because it felt so good to eat when you're pregnant. It is easy to forget that there are hidden risks, until I was reminded by my OB and warned against taking too many sweets.

I immediately switched to fresh fruits and fruit shakes. I thought I was being so clever—hitting two birds with one stone. I was eating healthily while satisfying my sweet tooth.

I was in my 28th week or so when my OB announced that I would have to undergo a routine screening Glucose Challenge Test. This was to check if I had gestational diabetes. It sounded fairly simple—an eight-hour fast before heading to the hospital to drink a solution which reminded me of Boysel Tea Orange. Afterward, I

PREGNANT C2

ComicRelief

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH — BY JESS ABERA

PUGAD BARDY — BY PH. LOUCA

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOMS — BY ELIZABETH HORNGLD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RHYMES WITH ORANGE — BY HILARY PRICE

SEIN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TOLEDO — BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPES

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your last new moon was in your sixth house (Work/Daily Bread). This is a particularly good time to make improvements in your daily routine and work environment. Your mind is especially active.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Discussions with others, by telephone or otherwise, especially with a romantic edge, are satisfying and rewarding in one way or another. Someone will surprise you in an unusual way.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Romance, parents, teachers and VIPs will capture your fancy today. Be aware of this, because you're susceptible to their every whim and fancy.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your sun is in your twelfth house (Secrets/Unseen Forces). Your intuition is strong today. You're particularly inclined because whatever plans you make are better and more than you dare to dream! (Secrets: We are not kidding about.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Others will be generous to you today, in fact, much more than you think. Reciprocity this month is the key to success. Be generous to others, and you'll be rewarded.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Establish self-partners and close friends are positive, upbeat and fun-filled today. Make plans to enjoy the company of others. Get out and socialize!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're in your second Mystical month (Spirituality/Higher Mind). Your mind is especially active today. Communicate with others, by telephone or in person, and you're glad that people are ready to embrace something big.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You're in your eighth month (Sex/Death/Other People's Money). Be careful with your finances today. Don't overspend, and don't be overly generous to others. Keep a tight rein on your money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you entertain at home today or have a family gathering, it will be positive and upbeat. This is a good day to get out and about. Be outgoing and friendly. Everything leading to that will also be fortunate and positive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) It's a great day for writers, interviewers, artists and teachers, or anyone who likes to promote ideas. Because you're in such a wonderful frame of mind, everyone admires you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This is an excellent day for business and professional. Trust your instincts today about the people you're dealing with. Be careful not to make any mistakes.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is a lovely day for your sign. The Moon is in Pisces, blending beautifully with Mars, increasing your energy and enthusiasm. Get out and about, and do something active. If you've been wanting to make some changes in your work, today is a good day.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

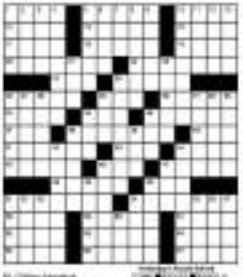
Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

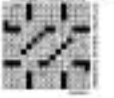
Concepts Sudoku — By Eleni Green

			8	9	7			
		5				1		
		2				6		
	4	7	3	1	8	2	5	
	5						9	
	6			2			3	
	2			4			7	
	3						6	
		9	5	6	2	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Herbs with medicinal or health-giving properties

A BUNDLE ASSED if I had photographs of the herbs mentioned last week. Unfortunately, I don't. Later, I will give the scientific names of the plants so readers can Google them if they want to know how they look.

In the meantime, here are other herbs with medicinal or health-promoting uses as identified by chef Roberto E. Clemente, who wrote the book, "Herb Country of the Philippines."

At tea, lemon grass or tanglad (*Cymbopogon citratus*) relieves fever, invigorates menstruation, hot flashes and rheumatic pains. A paste with neem tree leaves heals wounds more quickly. Rubbing lemon grass on skin improves circulation.

The juice of kamias fruit (*Averrhoa philippinensis*), with sugar, relieves cough. Kamias juice may also be used to wash the hair.

Kalumpit (*Terminalia edulis blanco*) is reputed to be an effective eyewash. The leaves of Ulasi are used in local provinces to flavor meat but its fruit reportedly contains cyanide.

Limonaria (*Triphasia trifolia (Burm f.) P. Wils.*) flowers are made into an infusion to relieve diarrhea. The fragrant inflorescence of piccadilla, a chocolate plant, has been traditionally regarded as an excellent tonic, a powerful aphrodisiac and an insect repellent. The oil, extracted from leaves, stalks and flowers, can be used to massage to relieve premenstrual pain and tension. The scent, somewhat similar to citronella's, repels insects.

Sudsud, sinigang (*Colubrina cordifolia*), which is not really native as it came from Mexico and not really sinigang, is not for cooking as it will give food a bitter taste. It is primarily a medicinal plant—a cure for colds, fever and cough—when used as an infusion. A poultice of leaves, applied on the forehead and temples, can relieve headaches. Rubbing leaves on the skin will also keep mosquitoes away.

Sinumomo (*Leucosyke capitella* (Poir.) Wedd.

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ANDREW Gan, Marian Zobel, Hayden Kho, Dr Vicki Belo, Jonathan Manlapaz

DEA and Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Iyo and JPH Legaspi

Concert kicks off UST Quadricentennial's closing activities

IT JUST had to be the grandest and totally unforgettable happening as the end of 2011. Mia is talking about the UST Glorious Concert (Gloria), which kicked off the year-long closing ceremonies of the University of Santo Tomas' one-year celebration of its 400th anniversary of offerings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Mai Hagum

powered by

The concert was expertly organized by UST's Senior Mayordomo Fr. Bernardo de la Rosa, OP, with the dedicated assistance, guidance and help of Isabel and Fr. Isidro Abano, OP, and the magnificent help of investment banker Andrew Gan and internationally renowned interior designer Jonathan Mark, no less.

Last Dec. 1, all roads led to UST, which is the Philippines' and Asia's oldest university. It was extra special since the university was marking its "Quadricentennial."

The 9th Christmas Gala got on a roll with the lighting of the UST Christmas Tree and campus led by Mariotis and Fr. St. Joy Abano, with Manila's Mayor Alfredo Lim, spot, which members of high society and insiders of business entered to the UST Chapel for the awesome Christmas concert dubbings.

The UST Chapel was dazzling, which had many concert sponsors Dr. Vicki Belo of Belo Medical Group (he said a proud UST alumna) and Ricardo Manilla giving front row seats.

Mariotis said she had been thinking about resigning from the organizing committee and passing on the baton, so to speak, to her sister in a short speech, Father Reuben De la Rosa asked the audience if they wanted Mariotis to continue as chair of the event. Loud applause and yells of "yes, yes!" indicated everyone's sentiment.

The incredible thing was that all the performers were students, faculty or alumni of UST—now how many schools could say that, pakengge?

Performers were UST Music Dean and Cultural Center of the Philippines president Raul Sunico, Cory Tamayo, Lineglisse Vocal Ensemble and UST Symphony Orchestra.

Known soprano Shu-Sung Rye sang a beautiful "Ave Maria." Ayrtimendez Lucero, our alto was played "Bahu na Sina Ko."

The world-renowned and multi-awarded UST Singers brought a tear to many an eye with their superb singing. Rachelle Gonzalez, as always, was impressive.

Alex Castro directed and Gus Gonzalez did the sets, which everyone said "were the most beautiful yet."

Part of the proceeds would go to scholarships at the UST Conservatory of Music, which is blessing with talents, and to Filipinos, we should all be very proud of them, pakengge.

Proceeds would also fund UST's heritage conservation efforts.

UST Seminary treat

The last treat was at the UST Central Seminary hall and garden for the cocktail reception and dinner buffet.

Mariz traveled again with Bobot Mercader to decorate the place, and they outdid themselves.

Also great was the dinner menu from La Tasca, which Champagne was flowed.

Dancing followed, presided by MORE.

Congratulations, Fr. Isidro Abano, OP, and the hardworking Gala 2012 Committee, which was led by Giovanna Fontanilla and adorable Mirbanda Lagarteza, no less.

The brilliant line of this end-of-the-year concert, as always, depended on how much good artists and musicians could do and how much generous donors could give! It's on you!

Major sponsors were Belo Medical Group and San Miguel Corp. Corporate sponsors were the TMP Group, ICBC, Powerhouse Interiors, Ayala Corp., IPC, Beacon Holdings Inc., Jonathan C. Mari Design Associates, Irwin & Uy Law Offices, Jojie Dingcong and not for the little help I could do, dubbings.

Dinner with the Picasso

Cosmo Manila's art enthusiasts flocked to Manila's Metropolitan Museum for the "Inner Infiniti," Pablo Picasso's one-of-a-kind set of 180 prints made in Paris in the 1930s. Phew!

At the Ink Galleries, we sipped chilled champagne and viewed with pleasure "Vots A Fote," a vision on Spanish contemporary photography.

Dedicated art lover Ellen Lim, senior Gerry Torres toured us around for the first ever Picasso show in the country, allowing us to see this incredible pieces up close, dubbings.

The Mrs's love partners—President Santiago and Parliament Hagilet—were also for their generosity in bringing this collection to our shores.

Miscellaneous: the in-host of this happening and event partner was museum of statistic and architecture Dr. Vicki Belo. "I am honored to be part of bearing art and of my particular affinity to Picasso," she said.

Vicki Belo is an avid art collector herself, and has an impressive collection of art.

My pal, Anja Bruzzone, Belo Group's marketing and blogging consultant, masterminded the whole affair.

Inside the filet was a heavy red curtain for Pantone 07. It set off dramatically the black and white photos that lined the walls of the Bandu General ng Pilipinas Gallery.

At the corner of the space was a table for 44 chosen guests, including Chaves Bhabi, an of Fundacion Instituto MET board vice chair Constancio Abiera, MET board member Patricia Reyson, and artist Gardner Lee.

An excellent menu of Spanish dishes was served, with the best wines from the region, while a guitarist played Spanish songs in the background, natch!

LEAGANI Yambao, Alan and Maricel Peralta

VICKY Perez de Tagle, Margie Moran Floirendo, Kathrina Legarda

JANNE Maria Sagisi, Sofia Zobel Elizalde, Iza Ayala, Kitkat Zobel

FR. ROLANDO dela Rosa, OP, Rector Magnificus of UST

FR. ISIDRO Abano, OP, Mayor Alfredo Lim, Marioris Zobel

CORA Alonso, Mari Boron

JAIME Lopa, Raul Sunico, Hugo Zobel

GAVI Tiaga, Lisa Aquia, Ivan Marco Acosta, Chris Ter-Chivoro

PERRYD Albert, mac Linda Chuaco, Manju Mourat

FREECY Garcia, Billy Cao, Andrew Gan

VICKY Zobel, Blanca Zobel-Wayne and her husband Chris Wayne

TIM Yap, Criselda Belo-Henares, Marc Gupco

LIANNE Bautista, Gerard Gaw, Dr. Vicki Belo

MET HOUSE, 95 director Gerry Torres, MET board vice chair Constancio Abiera

JOEY Luna, Dr. Vicki Belo, Jeff Yoshioka, Leo Imperial

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Heartbreak album

NEW YORK—Rumors! John Cyfferkund be reunited? Taylor Swift grieves the worst of Vogue's February issue and tells the mag her next album will be about an "absolute crash-and-burn heartbreak." Swift, 22, doesn't name names, but she dated Cyfferkund for a few months in 2010, and John Mayer, briefly, before that. They broke up with her. AP

Time for David Arcbuleta to get out of his 'likable' shell

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE SEC alone has seven this month to TVS's list to add international singer Daniel Arcbuleta to its roster of contract stars. The "Asian Idol" second-placer is turning actor by way of "Pinoy Boy Abunda," a local series in which he plays a young Fil-Am teenager who comes home and gets involved with two lovely babes, played by Jasmine Curtis-Smith and Iyah Cubellers.

This is Arcbuleta's fourth working visit to the Philippines, so it's decidedly a case of nunsod lang turnaround from mid-Feb Pilipino Gun. His performing career in the States has yet to really take off, so he has the time to further build up his core-not multinational Philippine base. The money involved in the TVS deal surely is nothing to sniff at, either.

'Fly-over' plus

The big question is, does David have it in him to cite well as an actor, not just as a singer? The way we size up the young comer, he's frisky and eager to please, but perhaps not-rare and obedient as a talent to come across as exciting and intriguing to behold in performance.

DAVID Arcbuleta: Does he have what it takes?

KISSE ACTION

Well, it's time for him to get out of his "likable" shell and predictable performing "lane"—which could be our reason that he's laying his actor persona on the line for the first time by way of his Pinoy mini-series.

To hedge its bets, "Sandino Aki" should be a seasoned romantic-drama affair that banks extensively on Arcbuleta's proven skill and charisma. But, there has to be a point in the show when he can prove his worth as an actor—ex, it's time to go out on an acting limb...and fly!

Adding to the fly-ness of Arcbuleta's baptism of fire as an actor is the fact that the two leading ladies are also relative newbies, so they'll be contending with close-range insecurities. It's a good thing that veteran actors have been signed up to provide the extra inbreed the acting support they need to make the mini-series their confidence rather than timorous bid for acting stardom.

Also not so pleasant for us is the prospect of having to watch yet another show in which an imported talent has to munch dialogue in English, since Arcbuleta is going to play the umpteenth Fil-Am character to inhabit at least a local TV/film production. Really now, when are we going to finally get over our awed and rabid postcolonial fascination with imports of every shape, size and speech?

Nothing new

Truth to tell, Arcbuleta is only the latest in a long line of foreigners who have starred in local TV/film productions. Back in the '50s, American Joan Rigs appeared in some local movies, as did Russian Nikki Ross (who remains a great entertainer to this very day).

Sunny citizens from other countries who've top-billed Filipino productions include Julianne Rancio (who costarred with Chiquito in a mermaid movie), Amparo Muñoz, and most successfully, Dayanara Torres, who not only acted with Aga Muhlach but also fell in love with him, and had her own local TV dance show, to boot.

So the template has long been in place—but it really is time to break it and move on to better and less "colonial" show/biz customs.

JASMINE Curtis-Smith: Another newbie in the cast

Younger lover meant to irk playboy's ex

RUSHES

KIKO Eternal: Not ready

By the Entertainment Staff

DESIGNED Playboy wanted to get even with former Pinoy, who had dumped him for Rich Kid.

SF had become irritable, said an insider, but his mood quickly changed for the better when he won the heart of Younger Sweetheart.

TS and SW are enrolled lovers, make-out in public, but cannot stand each other in private. They just hate-each-other's guts.

Seems SF hooked up with YS to annoy SW. The plan has apparently clicked. SF and YS are ironically his/ours dummy-sure.

Flimsy excuse

Big Boss tried to restore Hazel-nose actor for a project, but SW was running in action. She even his handlers know where HA is, in compliment.

The project was delayed until SW found a replacement for HA.

When HA resurfaced, he offered a flimsy excuse: "I had to sort out a personal problem." And he explain's check his cell phone for 5 minute?

Ill-gotten wealth

Colleagues are raising a collective brow: Bossy has lavished more attention and wealth even after giving up a lucrative job.

Anonymous sources have been spending money about the questionable source of SF's prosperity.

Enemies are asking: Could it be true that SF is poor-in-love? For Powerful Boss, whose deeds are dubious as love? Or is it because case of SF's Closest Words is the kept boy of Influential Celebrity?

It should learn that it's best not to flaunt ill-gotten affluence.

Pro sumo-droppers

Three Diviosa Characters really know who is behind. Attaching themselves like barnacles to Wheeler-Dealer has proven to be providential in countless ways.

DGs are obviously using WD to get close to even more Prominent Personalities—specifically, whatever they engage in Hero activities.

Hmm. DGs pretend to be do-gooders, when they actually channel their way to the top.

Suspicious hater

Today Hater has been scrutinizing in disparaging Notorious Celebrity, regarding SC's shenanigans. All because of a nasty falling-out.

Then again, SC must be tolerating SH because the latter has succeeded in keeping this "bee-hater" in the news. In a roundabout way SH is fanning the flames of SC's infamy. Perhaps SH should just ignore SC...the best way to deal with someone who's publicity hungry.

Pudding pot

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—Golden Globe winner Claire Danes will pick up a pudding pot from Stanford's Pudding Theatricals. The student group named Danes on Friday as Woman of the Year. She'll get a parade and a roast tomorrow.

Danes, 32, won her third Golden Globe on Sunday for her title as CIA agent Carrie Mathison on Showtime's new "Homeland." She won a Golden Globe, an Emmy and a Screen Actors Guild award last year for her work in HBO's "Temple Grandin." She won her first Golden Globe and an Emmy nomination at 15, for "My So-Called Life." AP

NEWSY Girl: A bout Lois...

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last week's TV gabfests (And why are we not surprised, if we are myself):

• Charice on throwing a "coming-out" birthday party for mom Raquel: "Nung 18th birthday niya, hindi niya na-experience 'to... Kaya pa 'to para sa lahat ng gusto niyang mahal ko as Jenya." (Thank you so, you're-welcome po!)

• Charice, talked about her love life: "Wala po po. Para kang

TOLONGE SI

John Arcilla: No starstruck actors on 'Bourne' set

'SHESHOT'
Student filmmakers Arvin Bitmacungan (L) and Iris Manan (second from L) on the set of "Buhay Aircon," about people who work and roam city streets at night. The remix is one of three that were picked and partly funded by the mall chain SM for its digital noir, "Sigaw," ongoing until Jan. 31 at SM Manila, Megamall, North Edsa, Mall of Asia and Cebu. Festival theme is "Modern Heroes."

JOHN Arcilla could barely contain his excitement after he made it to the cast of "Bourne Legacy."

"I am about to sign the contract and waiting," he said. "I heard they are quite strict. When you're on the set, you're expected to work and not misbehave or chat with your coactors. So based on star-struck-Filipino-based actors it's an honor to be chosen among the stalwarts of the local movie industry and theater companies who auditioned."

John was born in the Philippines, and now "Resides" in Hollywood.

'Off-duty'

JC de Vera has a cute way of describing the status of his relationship with Zsazsa Padilla: "Off-duty."

"Ang jolly ng ang mga inaasta namin," he explains. "But when the time is right maglalakasan din kami. Though we are now free as date others, I'm still hoping magpot pa namin ang label."

What about his other ex, Ehlan Ramos? Does he feel sorry for her after Jet Ehle's controversial video about their breakup? "Nope, I don't feel sorry for her," he says. "Decision niya yun. Whether tama o mali, iyon lang ang nakapagsasabi. Ano mas nauna? Ito ba ay siguro lang kami pa si Ehlan, hindi pansin ang malgawan at lamat."

JC's full of factor!

Legends, classics

It was such a delight to interview Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, leading her ballet studio made me miss my time at the movies. Not necessary people know that before my tea joined show biz, she was a ballet student.

Doesn't she ever get tired of dancing since she started at age 8? "I get exhausted, too," Lisa admitted. "But that's part of my discipline as a dancer. Ballet has been good to me."

How does it feel to be married to a powerful man like Atty. Elizalde? "It's challenging. Actually my husband is very shy," Lisa said. "He would rather stay behind the scenes. But he's a huge fan-based and a super-fanboy. Pinkout for his support, I wouldn't have been able to continue dancing."

How does she feel about recently-died dancers on daytime TV? "As long as I can see my public, effort-lan at natuto ng sumayaw, then its okay," she said. "May sexy dancers din naman sa ballet pero refined."

Watch the prima ballerina's signature moves in "The Legends of the Classics" with Lea Salonga and Leslie Lacuna on March 17 at the CCP Main Theater. When Lisa dances, the world stands still.

Third 'apo'

Bong and Lani Revilla are proud grandparents once again. Their eldest son, Bingo Moreno, was born last Jan 19," beams Lani. "He's the second baby of our daughter Bimb and her husband Vince. Their daughter Alonzo is 6 years old. Our apos call us Mommy Lani and Papa Bong."

Bofu Bligo could not hide his pride as a first-time Dad's like a breath of fresh air to the Revilla clan after the gruesome Ampatuan massacre.

PERSONAL: Thanks a lot to my "classmate" Dyan Rodriguez for granting my wedding and her hospitality and DP Dilmas Isnad (sister).

E-mail: jcastro@philstar.com/jlcastro@yahoo.com

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

INSET: Vicenza Bautista del Rosario, flying Revilla and Lani Revilla's third apo

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4
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GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE
BEST ACTOR
LEONARDO DICAPRIO
J. Edgar

Opening Today

My Cactus Heart

Directed by Enrico Santos; **stars** Maja Salvador, Matteo Guidicelli, Sam Lim, Rosanna Roces, Ricky Davao, Ramon Christopher, Karylle

Lonely girl (Salvador) is afraid of romance, due to her unhappy family life. But she meets two boy friends (Lim and Guidicelli) who make her change her mind. Guidicelli considers this rom-com his "most challenging" project yet. His real-life sweetheart Salvador asserts that the story "shows (viewers) the true meaning of love." Combining indie and mainstream sensibilities, the flick was produced by Skylight. Star Cinema's digital arm.

J. Edgar

Directed by Clint Eastwood; **stars** Leonardo DiCaprio, Armie Hammer, Naomi Watts, Judi Dench, Josh Lucas, Ken Howard

Biopic sheds light on the public persona and private pains of J. Edgar Hoover (DiCaprio), charmed and controversial former head of the federal Bureau of Investigation. Time Out's Dave Calhoun says it's "pleasing, intelligent but too balanced and nourishing." Variety's Matthew Turner remarks: "Not a shoot 'em flows, but 'women wrath wrestling." Wall Street Journal's Joe Morgenstern sums it up as "partially animated waxworks."

The Darkest Hour

Directed by Chris Gorak; **stars** Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, Max Minghella, Rachael Taylor, Joel Kinnaman, Veronika Vernadskaya

Invisible aliens invade Moscow, accessing an ordinary assemble for their life. New York Times' Jeannette Catsoulis dismisses it as "mindless depressing [sic] bore of imagination." Observer's Philip French quips: "The most alarming sequence is the revelation that there might be a sequel." Entertainment Weekly's Keith Staskiewicz states: it "opts for a fun-is-over approach ... manages to rob our inner fleeting dread."

Haywire

Directed by Steven Soderbergh; **stars** Gina Carano, Ewan McGregor, Channing Tatum, Antonio Banderas, Michael Fassbender

Operative (Carano) gets double-crossed

Fassbender and Lukas Haas in "Contraband"

Armie Hammer in "J. Edgar"

Emile Hirsch in "The Darkest Hour"

THIS MOVIE IS NOT YET RATED BY THE MTRCB
HE HAS A SECRET TO REVEAL
AND THE WHOLE CITY IS LISTENING
OPENS FEB. 1
SAM WORTHINGTON
STAR OF "AVATAR" AND "CLASH OF THE TITANS"
MAN ON A LEDGE
GUILTY OR INNOCENT?

Contraband

Directed by Baltasar Kormakur; **stars** Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale, Ben Foster, Giovanni Ribisi, Lukas Haas, Diego Luna

A retired smuggler (Wahlberg) is dragged back to the underworld to save his family from a screwing drug lord (Ribisi). Rolling Stone's Peter Travers notes: "Wahlberg could sleepwalk through the role, and does." E! Online's Luke Thompson agrees on one "It has Ribisi as Ribisi, and it's nasty ... manipulative streak kills the joy." Washington Post's Michael Sullivan compares it to "an Ocean's Eleven movie, minus the glamour."

and must rely on her skills to unmask his enemies. Variety's Justin Chang says "Bodenheim's action-filmmaking chops are in order, vigorous 92-minute workout." Village Voice's Nick Pinkerton agrees: "[It] puts the impact back into science-fiction, letting it land to earth." The Hollywood Reporter Todd McCarthy relates: "[It's] refreshingly frank ... a workable framework for suckers and mayhem."

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1 CONTRABAND	2 UNDERWORLD AWAKENING	3
4	6	
5 THE DARKEST HOUR	ULTRA CINEMA 7	

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MY CACTUS HEART – GP	J. EDGAR – R13	HAYWIRE – R13
CONTRABAND – R13	THE DARKEST HOUR (3D) – PG13	UNDERWORLD AWAKENING (3D) – PG13

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MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: HAYWIRE
3: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
4: J.EDGAR
5: CONTRABAND
6: THE DARKEST HOUR (3D)
7: MY CACTUS HEART

GREENBELT 1
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: THE DARKEST HOUR (3D)
3: THE DARKEST HOUR

GREENBELT 3
1: CONTRABAND
2: THE DARKEST HOUR (3D)
3: J. EDGAR
4: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
5: HAYWIRE

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: CONTRABAND
2: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
3: THE DARKEST HOUR (3D)
4: J. EDGAR
5: HAYWIRE

ALABANG CENTER CINE
1: THE DARKEST HOUR
2: CONTRABAND
3: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
4: HAYWIRE

MARQUEE
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
2: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
3: THE DARKEST HOUR

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THE DARKEST HOUR (3D)
2: J. EDGAR
3: CONTRABAND
4: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
5: HAYWIRE
6: MY CACTUS HEART
7: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING

TRINOMA
1: MY CACTUS HEART
2: HAYWIRE
3: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
4: THE DARKEST HOUR
5: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING
6: J. EDGAR
7: CONTRABAND

ABREEZA
1: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)
2: THE DARKEST HOUR
3: HAYWIRE
4: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING

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Younger lover...

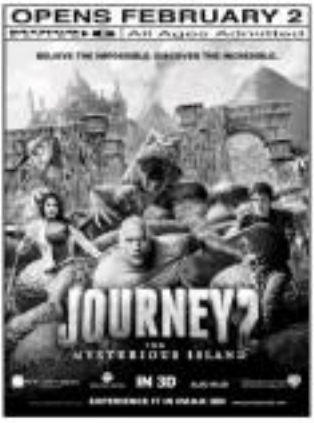
Arangap D1

maghalawasan... it doesn't really matter kung sino man yan. Basta for me it's the personality." (So it should matter after all.)

- Edu Manzano, asked if she's ready to do love scenes with Mark Herras: "Haha, hindi kayaera kaya!" (If Mark kaya?)
- Jake Cuenca, asked about his love life: "I don't want to make people cry anymore. I don't want to hurt anyone. If ayaw nila ayokong sabihin, dapat all the way na." (Unrevealed ever, ouch!)
- Agot Isidro on dealing with Diskriminasyon: "Kinaya 'yon ni mahabo sarcie... My tweets are positive—as much as possible... But sometimes, some people really need to be put in their place." (Hindi dito siya nanuso 'yun.)
- Bidoy Fernando, asked if husband Manny has given up his vices: "Si Manny ngayon kapag nasa bahay na, Magbalot ako ng mga lotsa... Mga marami na siyang inom para sa kanila." (May sensitive na, in other words.)
- Kris Aquino on rumors that estranged husband James Yap and Isabel Oli are in a relationship: "Ang sa kanila 'yan."
- Eula Valdez on the one thing that she doesn't want to hear from his 17-year-old son: "Ngayon kapag sinabi niyang nakakabastos siya. Di ko yata pa maintindihan 'yon!" (Mean! Language, please!)
- Nikki Gil, learning that Marlon Icabalceli needed five takes for a kissing scene with "My Cactus Heart" leading lady Maja Salvador: "Bilangan t sin daw! Lito (Manansala) 'yan sa movie nila si John Lloyd (Cruz)!"
- Dingdong Dantes, asked if he and girlfriend Marian Rivera plan on getting married this year: "Wala pa naman, pero ang mga gustong malaman, 'yung mga many things lined up for us as partners and as individuals this year. So, I think pagdadasan muna namin ng onte 'yung mga 'yun."

Hannah, 8-t/c, with Allan Pelicano; contributor

CHARGE: Thanksgiving tuxedo.



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No. 1 News Channel

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011

Rank	Channels	Share (%)
1	GMA	34.2
2	ABS-CBN	31.1
3	TV5	15.6

Feb.28* to Dec. 31, 2011

Rank	NEWS Channels	Share (%)
1	NEWSTV	2.9
2	AKSYON TV	0.3
3	ANC	0.1

Launched February 28, 2011

At maging sa simula ng bagong taon, No. 1 pa rin!

Jan. 1 to Jan. 12, 2012

Rank	Channels	Share (%)
1	GMA	37.2
2	ABS-CBN	29.1
3	TV5	14.8

Jan. 1 to Jan. 12, 2012

Rank	NEWS Channels	Share (%)
1	NEWSTV	3.1
2	AKSYON TV	0.3
3	ANC	0.1

Maraming salamat, mga Kapuso!

Source: Nationwide Urban TV Audience Measurement Households

Philippines
HEALTH & WELLNESS Travel
A Guide to World-Class Healthcare & Travel Destinations in the Philippines

World-Class Care... Truly Filipino

Photo courtesy of The Medical City for "Philippines Heart of Asia" Travel Guide

NEWS: Jim Sullivan from Australia went to the Philippines on an extraordinary work dare, his experience proves too high. From his experience to his home country, the level of dental work he was looking for usually takes weeks and cost a lot of money. Some that could save you as the Philippines for three days, he convinced that all this could be done for less than a consultation and two teeth extractions.

Instead, what happened when he went to his Filipino dentist was, as Jim's opinion, nothing short of incredible. In three days, Jim was able to get his dental plates fitted and he was on a plane home with a set of dentures, top and bottom, absolutely thrilled over the results of the procedure—all at 70% less than the cost in Australia for exactly the same procedure.

It's best to hear about the experience in Jim's own words:

"Now comes the incredible bit. Friday he removed the teeth, took whatever impressions were needed on the remaining teeth, and advised that his dentist would pick me up at 1pm on the Saturday for initial fitting of the plates.

"I was doubtfounded. To get plates made over in my country would take at least a week or more. To be fitted the plates in One Saturday afternoon , had me back at 11am on Monday to make adjustments and the final fitting.

"On I was on the plane Monday afternoon to come home with a mouth full of operational teeth. It's still quit unbelief. Absolutely incredible. In one to 3 days what would take weeks were done, and was a hell of a lot better."

But that's not all. Jim was also grateful that his Filipino dentist gave him the time and attention he needed in order to feel comfortable and at ease throughout the procedure. Jim's dentist was also very patient with him, even staying after hours to accommodate each new tooth piece.

The dentist that Jim went on to Dr. Joel Gutierrez, DMD, PhDS, FICD, and fellow of the American Dental Association who has his clinic in Salcedo Village in Makati. It was Jim's very first time to have dental work done overseas. After Jim's initial consultation, he found out that Dr. Gutierrez "is very easy to get along with and explains every procedure fully, and at no time did I feel worried."

The Sun Co.

The experience of Jim Sullivan is a very good example and case study of what makes the Philippines an ideal health and wellness travel destination in the Asia Pacific region. What happened in Jim Sullivan is not limited to foreign dental patients. Foreign patients who received other types of medical treatment in the Philippines have an experience similar to that of Jim Sullivan.

Some of us Filipinos, who naturally

Continued on page 4

The Department of Tourism joins Philippine Daily Inquirer in welcoming to newsstands its exclusive new monthly supplement, "Philippines Health and Wellness Travel"!

Any first brings with it a certain excitement. In picking up this introductory edition, you, dear reader, have probably entertained the idea that the Philippines might just be the health and wellness haven you've been looking for. The following pages contain proof of that idea, proof that, indeed, achieving soundness in body and mind is more fun here in the Philippines.

Our natural wonders and top-notch services are attractive for sure, but tourists time and again have pointed to an inviting Filipino as the clincher. We are why they, for wellness or for any other purpose, come and return. In proclaiming that "It's More Fun in the Philippines" and that we are "#1 for Fun", we've just given the world a reason why ours is wellness mecca above all others.

It's now time to turn the page and discover a thing or two about world-class health and wellness services offered in and around these 7,107 islands. Enjoy reading, and eventually exploring our beautiful Philippines!

Mabuhay!

JAIME K. JASMIN, JR.
Secretary

During the 1st Phil. Global Healthcare Forum, leaders displayed unity to continuously improve the Philippines' healthcare services for the country to capitalize on the growing trend of globalization in healthcare. Shown in photo are (from L to R): HealthWORE CEO Julio Ilmi-Sulmian; Philjas president Dr. George Regkipo; PMA-CMC Commission chairman Dr. Ramon Ramirez, Jr.; Philhealth OIC & 4th Qualty Assurance Group Dir. Francisco Ibota; IPHE/Representative Dr. Peco-An Law; DOH Usec. Teodoro Herbosa; Phil. Retirement Authority GM Vonstigo Alberas; 1st Phil. Global Healthcare Forum Convenor Joyce Sioson-Alumno; DOH Secretary Enrique Ona; DTI Asec. Cristina Panlilio; Professional Regulation Commission chairperson Hon. Teresita Manzala; Phil. Nurses Association president Dr. Teresita Bairelo; Phil. Dental Association president Dr. Roberto Tajonera; Phil. Council on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (PCAHO) president, Dr. Tomas Marcelino; and Phil. Orthopedic Association vice president Dr. Geoffrey Bala).

Philippine Medical Tourism comes of age

There is growing consensus that the medical tourism sector is the next sunrise industry for the Philippines, after the much-heralded BPO sphere.

MANILA, Manila (also Asean) is medical travel, health tourism or global healthcare travel) provides significant economic and social benefits to the country. Visitors from the US, Australia, Canada and Europe avail of medical treatments, diagnostics and other services of hospitals and wellness centers, as well as personalized hotels and other tourist facilities, to boost health-care incomes including Asia and the Philippines.

It provides direct revenue infusion for the country and likewise raises the capacity utilization of hospitals and other healthcare facilities, thus spurring greater economic activity and paving the way for better job opportunities for the country's physicians, nurses and other medical personnel.

Healthcare business intelligence firm Healthcare through its recently released Philippine Medical Tourism Competitiveness 2011: Facts, Figures & Strategies estimates that the country earned a total of US$ 1.38 billion from healthcare and wellness services from overseas foreign tourists and fulfillmentas who visited the country from the five-year period 2006 to 2010. There is growing consensus that the medical tourism sector is the next sunrise industry for the Philippines, after the much-heralded BPO sphere.

Comparative Advantage

Healthcare has projected that the Philippines has the potential to grab an additional share of as much as US$ 1 billion in annual revenues in the global medical tourism market by 2016 or earlier if it puts in place attractive investment environment that will enable the country to expand its healthcare infrastructure, more spas and liberal travel arrangements for medical tourists and better and more extensive international marketing promotion programs.

This research cited that the Philippines has what it takes to make the Philippines a medical tourism destination. It cited the following strengths and advantages:

1. High level of quality in healthcare. The top tertiary hospitals have state-of-the-art medical and hospital facilities and are staffed by highly qualified medical consultants, doctors, nurses and other personnel. At least eight hospitals and clinics are now accredited by different international accreditation agencies.

2. Competitive cost of healthcare services. The cost of healthcare in the Philippines is generally lower than in most developed countries such as the US and Canada.

3. Large supply of competent healthcare professionals. The Philippines houses of world-class medical doctors and highly qualified nurses, therapists and medical technicians. The country is a major source of medical professionals to the global labor force.

4. English communication skill, and culture of compassion and service. These service parameters are valuable and highly in demand for serving the global market for health and wellness – the same competitive advantage that has made the Philippines one of the BPO powerhouses.

5. Geographical proximity to countries such as Guam and Micronesia, Australia, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Because of the proximity and the generally high healthcare costs, outreach from these countries can benefit from the high-quality medical and wellness services and the low transport and travel costs to the Philippines.

Government Support

The government has put in place investment incentives to attract more investments in building the country's healthcare infrastructure. Investment incentives offered by the Board of Investments (BOI) via the Omnibus Investments Code, and implemented via the Investment Priority Plan (IPP), including income tax holidays for the first four years of business operations, zero VAT on imported capital equipment, and preferential rate on local taxes (a 5% tax rate on gross sales in lieu of the prevailing 12% Value-Added Tax on gross sales).

Trade guarantee support include grants provided by the Export Development Fund (EDF), for foreign trade missions organized by the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP) and participation in international conferences, expos and trade events through the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (an attached office under the Department of Trade and Industry) and the Department of Tourism (DOT).

Seizing the Day for Philippine Medical Tourism

International research firm Intrinsic, the study added, has identified the Philippines as one of the emerging players in the multi-billion dollar industry, which currently is dominated by countries Singapore, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

The medical and tourism sectors and other industry stakeholders should get their act together and no further delaying broad-ranging strategies and to diffuse the implementation of programs in the area of healthcare infrastructure, quality management and international accreditation, liberalization of visa restrictions for the medical travelers and international marketing and promotions to catapult the Philippines to the industry's elite circle.

Comparative Table of Treatment Prices in the Philippines vs Other Countries

COUNTRY	Spa Services (Massage)	Aesthetic (Nose Lift)	Eye Care (LASIK Eye Surgery)	Dental Care (Dental Implant)	Elective Surgery (Heart Surgery)
US	$100 - 200	$6,000 - 9,000	$3,000 - 4,000	$3,000	$50,000 - 144,000
India	$20 - 50	$800 - 1,000	$1,000 - 1,500	$600 - 900	$6,000 - 9,000
Philippines	$30 - 50	$800 - 900	$1,000 - 1,400	$600 - 800	$15,000 - 17,000
Thailand	$40 - 70	$600 - 1,000	$600 - 900	$500 - 600	$11,000 - 13,000
Singapore	$200 - 300	$3,000 - 4,000	$1,500 - 2,000	$1,500 - 2,000	$30,000 - 40,000
Malaysia	$70 - 100	$2,000 - 2,500	$1,500 - 1,800	$1,000 - 1,200	$15,000 - 17,000
Indonesia	$100 - 200	$3,000 - 4,000	$2,000 - 2,500	$1,500 - 2,000	$20,000 - 25,000

Source: Philippine Medical Tourism Competitiveness 2011: Facts, Figures & Strategies

WHY DO THEY COME TO PHILIPPINES FOR HEALTHCARE?

"Even if most of the women in LA are very open about cosmetic surgery, I felt that it was a cultural thing. I did not want people to know when I was doing since I've had Botox. I wanted spa treatments during my stay [in the Philippines] and happened shopping malls and restaurants. I was in the Philippines for a total of three weeks and enjoyed every minute of it.

I spent US$5,000 for both surgeries. The level of caring made it different and everything else that came along with it. I cannot cite, fellow spa made it better. I saved probably US$3,000 to 5,000.

JULIANA HUSAIN
Los Angeles, California, USA
Courtesy of Belo Medical Group

"I have recently researched from my third overseas dental holiday in the Philippines. I had all my teeth examined and I am more than happy with the final result. My total cost for dental treatments and three holidays (airfare, accommodation and spending money) was about US$10,000. To get all my teeth corrected in Australia, I was quoted US$80,000-90,000 and for dental services. So I have saved that much money, as well as having three memorable holidays which include golfing, staying in the beach (in between dental treatment) and a fun night life.

The dentist in the Philippines was professional at all times and had a genuine caring manner. It was obvious from day one that she cared more about my well-being and my teeth, rather than how much money she could make (a complaint common to experiences I've had with Australian dentists). I'm only sorry I did not know about this many years ago before I paid a fortune to Australian dentists for substandard treatment."

KEN JONES
Brisbane, Australia
(courtesy of Medibank)

"A medical concierge made my hectic trip to the Philippines convenient and comfortable. I am most impressed with their staff who were there for me all the time (...even in the wee hours when I had to call in to schedule). They could take care of all arrangements for medical, dental, drama treatments and procedures, recreation and travel accommodation, or what have you.

MAJOR ESTRADA
Jacksonville, Florida, USA
(courtesy of Health & Leisure)

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

In this maiden issue of "Philippines Health and Wellness Travel", we welcome you to the possibilities open for those who seek quality, competent, world-class and caring experiences in health and wellness.

This section is dedicated to promote, not only our outstanding hospitals, clinics and state-of-the-art healthcare facilities, but also our distinctly Filipino touch and natural capacity to be friendly and happy, capped with our amazing sceneries and weather.

In the Philippines, medical and health travelers not only get healthy, recover, relax and find well-being—they also become happier. We hope you will join us on this 12-month journey and further hope to welcome you here in our doorsteps.

Finally, to be healthy is more fun in the Philippines. Come and be well under our sun!

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Join the "Workshop on Implementing International Accreditation Standards for Hospitals & Clinics" on Feb. 26-27, 2012 in DAP-Ortigas. Please call 9188500 for more information.

Two aesthetic centers step up for international accreditation

THE INTERNATIONAL arm of NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS (NABH) recently announced two Philippine health providers for international accreditation. NABH International assessors were in the Philippines recently to conduct pre-assessment of Belo Medical Group and The Zen Institute, to confirm their fitness and openness to international quality standards.

NABH International introduces its standards to the Philippines based on principles set by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua), the worldwide agency that sets the international standards for quality medical and healthcare practices of healthcare providers around the world. Through the NABH International mark of excellence, patients are assured that these hospitals are guaranteed to provide global quality healthcare.

HealthCORE is the official representative of NABH International in the Philippines. It is a private corporation involved in global healthcare management and medical travel education, research, marketing and consultancy. Through HealthCORE and NABH International, healthcare providers in the Philippines will have access to guidelines and resources that will help them meet international benchmarks.

"Accreditation is all about patient safety and quality care"

Dr. B.K. Rana, Joint Director of NABH and Vice-Chairman for Accreditation of ISQua, recently went to the Belo Medical Group at its headquarters in Makati and The Zen Institute in Global City to conduct pre-assessment as part of the clinic's application for accreditation.

When The Zen Institute and Belo Medical Group attain NABH accreditation, their operations will be certified as conforming to international medical and healthcare standards set by NABH International. Accreditation by NABH will confer an international seal of quality to these two Philippine healthcare providers.

"International healthcare benchmarks are what every hospital, clinic and wellness center must adhere to. This is because conforming to these standards will assure their patients of the best quality of medical care and health services. In short, all healthcare providers must aim to give the best care possible to assure the best choice/outcomes for their patients," said Dr. B.K. Rana, Joint Director of NABH.

According to Rana, accreditation is not a marketing tool. Accreditation, he said, is a way to help healthcare providers meet international benchmarks for quality medical and healthcare services.

"Every hospital, clinic or wellness center, whether they are accredited or not, should be striving to give the best healthcare. Accreditation gives a process, a schedule and a structure that will help a healthcare provider meet international standards more easily, more accurately and with the right guidance," Rana explained.

NABH: Mark of international quality healthcare

Belo Medical Group is a network of aesthetic clinics that offers a wide range of surgical and non-surgical cosmetic services for skin care, anti-aging, body-shaping, weight management and dental services. After 20 years in operation, Belo Medical Group remains one of the top aesthetic clinics in the Philippines today. It has clinics all over Metro Manila and one clinic in California, U.S.A.

"Belo Medical Group has been catering for international and local patients for years, as word-of-mouth about its high-level of care, patient safety and patient satisfaction is spreading through Filipino communities overseas and their non-Filipino friends.

"However, we are still seeking to further improve our benchmarks and are aiming to transform our practices and facilities to the best standards in the world. This is why we are pursuing our international accreditation through NABH International," said Dr. Felipe Bollag, Medical Director of BMG.

Belo Medical Group is seeking NABH's international mark of quality healthcare under the category of Small Healthcare Organization while Zen Institute, on the other hand, is seeking accreditation as a wellness center. It is the very first wellness center in the Philippines to do so.

The Zen Institute is a medical spa that offers aesthetic and wellness services to its patients, focusing on non-invasive procedures for skin care, anti-aging, body-sculpting and weight management. Patients also receive personal wellness coaching to help them adopt wellness as a preferred lifestyle.

NABH International accreditation for both The Zen Institute and Belo Medical Group is being processed through HealthCORE, the official Philippine representative of NABH. For more inquiries about international accreditation, go to www.healthcore.com.ph.

THE BELO MEDICAL GROUP undergoes pre-assessment for NABH international accreditation. NABH Assessors Dr. B.K. Rana, NABH Director and ISQUA Vice Chairperson and Dr. Leena Phadnis (seated 1st and 3rd from left) toured the facility and conducted interviews with the quality team of Belo Medical Group led by Dr. Felipe Bollag (seated center), Dr. March Cortez and Ma. Sheina de Guzman (standing 3rd and 4th from left respectively).

THE ZEN INSTITUTE in Fort Bonifacio Global City undergoes pre-assessment for NABH international accreditation. NABH Assessors Dr. B.K. Rana, NABH Director and ISQUA Vice Chairperson and Dr. Leena Phadnis (3rd and 1st from left) toured the facility and conducted interviews with The Zen Institute owner Dr. Mary Jane "MJ" Torres-Heidecafias and her staff. Also in photo is HealthCORE executive director Joyce Alunera.

LIST OF MEDICAL TOURISM PROVIDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

HOSPITALS

Bayanihan Hospital and Medical Center
Cardinal Santos Medical Center
Capitol Medical Center
Cebu Doctors' University Hospital
Chong Hua Hospital
Davao Doctors Hospital
Las Piñas Doctors Hospital
Makati Medical Center
Manila Adventist Medical Center
Manila Doctors Hospital
Medical Center Manila
Pilar Adventist Hospital
Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital
Quirino Memorial Medical Center
Quirino Memorial Medical Center
Rizal Medical Center
Sacred Heart Hospital
Sagrado Hospital and Medical Center
San Juan de Dios Hospital
San Pedro Hospital
Santa Rosa Doctors Hospital
St. Frances Cabrini Medical Center
St. Luke's Medical Center
The Medical City
University of Santo Tomas Hospital
World Citi Medical Center

PHILIPPINE CENTERS FOR SPECIALIZED HEALTHCARE

Lung Center of the Philippines
National Kidney and Transplant Institute
Philippine Children's Medical Center
Philippine Heart Center

SPECIALTY CLINICS

Asian Eye Institute
JE Reyes Dermatology and Laser Center
Belle Medical Group
Eye Republic Ophthalmology Clinic
Home Health Care
The Nazareth Formation House Bed-Ease Therapeutic Community Center
Well Center for Alzheimer's and Elderly Care
Well Enhancement for Life Foundation, Inc.

SERVICES UNDER PHILIPPINE MEDICAL TOURISM PROGRAM

- Executive Check-up
- Diagnostic & Laboratory Technologies
- Eye Care and Sight Restoration
- Dental Care, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Aesthetic, Dermatologic, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Multi-Disciplinary Weight Management Care
- Wellness Programs
- Cardiovascular Care
- Cancer Care and Stem Cell Therapy
- Joint Replacement
- Rehabilitation

STATE-OF-THE-ART technology add to the competence and efficiency of hospitals and clinics.

World-Class Care... Truly Filipino

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cable our health care services for general, simple) for something other all the convenient, is about. So let's look at Jun's story and find out what makes foreign patients so happy after they receive medical treatment in the Philippines.

Caring. Filipinos are caregivers. From childhood, we are raised with the capacity to care about those who need it the most. It's no surprise that Filipino nurses are sought-after around the world—physicians have clear because they are friendly and caring. A friendly, caring attitude from a nurse or doctor is proven to boost the immune system and improve patient outcomes.

Competence. Filipino medical professionals go through rigorous and extensive training before they are allowed to practice their profession. Filipino doctors are board certified and are, in general, highly-motivated to pursue continuing medical education, locally and overseas, throughout their professional life, that best doctors are affiliated with international medical organizations and work in modern hospitals that adhere to global standards.

Compassion. As Filipinos, we are not just friendly and caring—we are compassionate. Compassion is one of the hallmarks of our culture—we have a deeply set ability for empathy and are set on doing in order to help those in need. Our medical professionals are imbued with this quality as well. Take note that Jun felt this compassionate care not only from his doctor but even from the dentist's driver and clinic staff.

Communication. Much has been said about Filipinos' proficiency in the English language—not all of us may have perfect grammar but we still communicate in English better than most of our Asian neighbors. Plus, some of us who received better education and exposure may even know English better than its native speakers.

But that's not the kind of communication we are referring to. Filipinos have no walls. Not in a stubborn, clinical, or aloof, or a generic, authentic desire to connect and share with others. It's in the Filipino's nature to find joy in communicating and connecting with all sorts of people—just look at how we have become the SMS (texting) capital of the world. We love to reach out, fly some to relate to others, even foreigners. We have acknowledged because it's in our nature to share.

This kind of communication is what Jim Sullivan experienced with his Filipino dentist, who took the time to explain the dental procedures and then, cared the former's accent. This kind of communication is, no doubt, what Jim experienced in relating to his dentist's driver, clinic staff and many other Filipinos he may have met during his short visit.

Cost-effective. Obviously, the relatively lower cost of health care in the Philippines—in comparison to other, more developed countries—is a big factor that attracts foreign patients to come here. Still, without the other C's in this list, it's doubtful that these foreign patients would have such a positive, wonderful experience. After all, if cost is the end all and be all, patients have alternatives to the Philippines.

Furthermore, the comparatively low cost does not refer only to the actual price of the treatment. The cost of medical and health travel to the Philippines includes airfare, accommodations, transportation, food and, significantly, the amount of time they spend in the country to await treatment and begin recovery.

If time is money, then foreign patients in the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe are spending astronomical amounts on their health care. A dental appointment in a developed country like Canada or the United States, for example, can require that a patient wait for weeks or even months. This is to utilize the Philippines where one can be a walk-in patient at a dental clinic.

Long waiting times for doctors' appointments are true for other medical treatments in developed countries. Patients there can wait for months or even years, before they get treatment—they also have to pay very high prices for these treatments.

For example, a basic dental check-up can cost from US$500 to US$800 in the foreign patient's home country in the Philippines, that same consultation cost about US$50.

A general medical check-up in the United States costs US$1,000. In the Philippines, it would cost US$500 to US$1,000. An aesthetic procedure like breast augmentation would cost around US$5,000 while in the Philippines, the same treatment would cost around US$1,500 to US$2,500.

ACCREDITED medical tourism doctors Jim Sullivan (left) with dentist Dr. Joel Sollano and vice president Rico Puga

Towards global health care

The Philippines has much to offer the world as health care becomes more globalized. Yet, the benefits are not one-way. Transforming the Philippines into a hub of health and wellness travel will result in more income for the national economy as well as more jobs for Filipino medical practitioners and workers in the travel and service industries. Healthcare standards in the Philippines will also improve even more, as hospitals, clinics and spas adopt international standards.

Health and wellness travel in the Philippines is a big topic. The encouraging stories like Jun Sullivan's are numerous and inspiring. There are so many good stories and so much information to be had. This is why this special section, aptly titled "Philippines Health and Wellness Travel" has been created. This section is a source of credible and reliable information for all stakeholders in health and wellness travel—from patients to healthcare professionals to healthcare facilities, to local governments, national officials and policy-makers.

This is just the beginning. Thank you for joining us in this journey towards health and wellness for everyone, Filipino and healthcare travelers alike.

HOSPITALS and clinics have international patient centers equipped to cater to any nationality. Some have concierge services offering translation and tour packages.

COMPETENCE, care, compassion and communication skills are some of the strengths and advantages of the Filipino healthcare professionals.